

# ***Town of Natick***

## ***2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting***



---

### **Recommendations of the Natick Finance Committee**

October 16, 2018 – Natick High School – Natick, MA

(Inside Front Cover)



**Finance Committee  
Town of Natick, Massachusetts  
October 5, 2018**

**2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting**

Greetings to all Town Meeting Members and Citizens of Natick,

This report contains the Natick Finance Committee recommendations for most but not all articles appearing on the warrant for 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting.

Under the Town's Charter and By-Laws, the Finance Committee is required to "consider all matters of business included within the articles of any warrant for a Town Meeting, and shall, after due consideration, report thereon, in print, its recommendation as to each article" (Natick By-Laws, Chapter 23, Section 4).

In accordance with the Town of Natick By-Laws, this report and recommendations are respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The Finance Committee has NOT completed due consideration of all matters of business within the articles of the 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant with some exceptions. Due to scheduling challenges from holidays, STM #2, availability on the part of sponsors, coordination with the Planning Board or the Finance Committee's own scheduling needs, certain articles were either not heard at all or were continued to a future date that was past the practical date of completing this book and distributing to members. Regardless of the reason the following articles remain open: Articles 28, 31, 32, 38, 40, and 42. None of these articles will appear in this initial Recommendation Book, but will make it into the Supplement #1 which is expected to be printed and distributed by October 12.

As well, in an effort to get this initial Recommendation Book in to the hands of Town Meeting members with time to prepare for the opening session on October 16, other articles have been held back from this book. They are Article 21-24 (taken up at STM #2), as well as Articles 26, 36 and 37. Finance Committee has recommended Favorable Action on both articles, but the write up for each has not been completed in time to make this printing.

Finance Committee met in open sessions for the 2017 Fall Town Meeting Warrant on August 30, September 6, 11, 13, 20, and 25 and October 4. The Finance Committee has a scheduled meeting for October 9 where articles will be taken up either under old business or as new business. It is our hope that Finance Committee can conclude our public hearings and provide recommendations of one type or another by October 9. If we are successful in that regard

Finance Committee will produce and deliver the sometimes maligned, but much needed “Supplement(s) to the Recommendation Book”.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all of the hard work and dedication contributed by all of the Town officials, members of boards, committees and departments, as well as many concerned citizens, for their cooperation, participation, and openness during our public hearings.

Information relating to the Finance Committee may be found on the Town’s public website, at <http://www.natickma.gov/finance-committee>. Any questions or comments about the Finance Committee may also be submitted to us via a link on that web page

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Hayes- Chairman  
David Coffey  
Michael Linehan  
Jim Scurlock  
Dan Sullivan

Cathi Collins – Vice Chair  
Jeff Deluca  
Lynn Tinney  
Dirk Coburn  
Linda Wollschlager

Bruce Evans – Secretary  
David Gallo  
Phil Rooney  
Bob McCauley  
Kristine Van Amsterdam

## General Fund Expenditure Summary

This spreadsheet details the appropriations to be made at Town Meeting by department.

	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2019 FATM Changes	2019 Revised	2018 vs. 2019 \$ (+/-)	% (+/-)
<b>Education &amp; Learning</b>									
<b>Natick Public Schools</b>									
Total Natick Public Schools	\$ 51,481,402	\$ 53,804,093	\$ 57,478,571	\$ 61,307,973	\$ 64,952,439		\$ 64,952,439	\$ 3,644,466	5.94%
Keefe Tech									
Expenses (Assessment)	\$ 1,091,902	\$ 1,247,313	\$ 1,522,958	\$ 1,427,911	\$ 1,594,984		\$ 1,594,984	\$ 167,073	11.70%
Total Keefe Tech	\$ 1,091,902	\$ 1,247,313	\$ 1,522,958	\$ 1,427,911	\$ 1,594,984		\$ 1,594,984	\$ 167,073	11.70%
Morse Institute Library									
Salaries & Expenses	\$ 2,074,442	\$ 2,096,849	\$ 2,155,972	\$ 2,151,463	\$ 2,244,799		\$ 2,244,799	\$ 93,336	4.34%
Total Morse Institute Library	\$ 2,074,442	\$ 2,096,849	\$ 2,155,972	\$ 2,151,463	\$ 2,244,799		\$ 2,244,799	\$ 93,336	4.34%
Bacon Free Library									
Salaries & Expenses	145,615	\$ 158,953	\$ 171,860	\$ 172,451	\$ 184,503	\$ 3,011	\$ 187,514	\$ 15,063	8.73%
Total Bacon Free Library	\$ 145,615	\$ 153,968	\$ 171,860	\$ 172,451	\$ 184,503	\$ 3,011	\$ 187,514	\$ 15,063	8.73%
Total Education & Learning	\$ 54,793,361	\$ 57,302,223	\$ 61,329,361	\$ 65,059,798	\$ 68,976,725	\$ 3,011	\$ 68,979,736	\$ 3,919,938	6.03%
<b>Public Safety</b>									
<b>Emergency Management</b>									
Salaries	\$ -	\$ 1,995	\$ 4,281	\$ 794	\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000	\$ 4,206	
Expenses	\$ 23,259	\$ 16,478	\$ 24,391	\$ 43,339	\$ 34,100		\$ 34,100	\$ (9,239)	-21.32%
Total Emergency Management	\$ 23,259	\$ 18,473	\$ 28,672	\$ 44,133	\$ 39,100		\$ 39,100	\$ (5,033)	-11.40%
<b>Parking Enforcement</b>									
Salaries	\$ 37,759	\$ 46,563	\$ 27,484	\$ 36,852	\$ 50,638		\$ 50,638	\$ 13,786	37.41%
Expenses	\$ 66,050	\$ 67,416	\$ 106,830	\$ 76,078	\$ 86,934		\$ 86,934	\$ 10,856	14.27%
Total Parking Enforcement	\$ 103,809	\$ 113,979	\$ 134,314	\$ 112,930	\$ 137,572		\$ 137,572	\$ 24,642	21.82%
<b>Police</b>									
Salaries	\$ 5,969,498	\$ 6,055,165	\$ 6,426,929	\$ 7,004,494	\$ 6,741,458		\$ 6,741,458	\$ (263,036)	-3.76%
Expenses	\$ 205,094	\$ 209,755	\$ 230,311	\$ 214,750	\$ 267,263		\$ 267,263	\$ 52,513	24.45%
Other Chgs. & Expenses	\$ 5,662	\$ 9,881	\$ 3,661	\$ 4,089	\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500	\$ 3,411	83.42%
Total Police	\$ 6,180,254	\$ 6,274,801	\$ 6,660,901	\$ 7,223,333	\$ 7,016,221	\$ -	\$ 7,016,221	\$ (207,112)	-2.87%
<b>Fire</b>									
Salaries	\$ 7,635,349	\$ 7,731,515	\$ 8,297,631	\$ 8,415,535	\$ 8,467,273		\$ 8,467,273	\$ 51,738	0.61%
Expenses	\$ 216,330	\$ 209,831	\$ 211,690	\$ 212,536	\$ 249,000		\$ 249,000	\$ 36,464	17.16%
Total Fire	\$ 7,851,679	\$ 7,941,346	\$ 8,509,321	\$ 8,628,071	\$ 8,716,273	\$ -	\$ 8,716,273	\$ 88,202	1.02%
Total Public Safety	\$ 14,159,001	\$ 14,348,599	\$ 15,333,208	\$ 16,008,467	\$ 15,909,166	\$ 0	\$ 15,909,166	\$ -99,301	-0.62%

Public Works	Salaries	\$ 3,209,952	\$ 3,295,298	\$ 3,466,312	\$ 3,506,495	\$ 3,833,225	\$ 13,176	\$ 3,846,401	\$ 339,906	9.69%
	Expenses	\$ 1,725,383	\$ 1,852,199	\$ 1,899,104	\$ 2,196,288	\$ 2,268,705		\$ 2,268,705	\$ 72,417	3.30%
	Municipal Energy	\$ 1,307,105	\$ 1,156,905	\$ 1,275,894	\$ 1,352,242	\$ 1,517,450		\$ 1,517,450	\$ 165,208	12.22%
	Snow & Ice	\$ 1,264,319	\$ 685,406	\$ 1,004,843	\$ 1,277,100	\$ 550,000	-	\$ 550,000	\$ (727,100)	-56.93%
	Total Public Works	\$ 7,506,759	\$ 6,989,808	\$ 7,646,153	\$ 8,332,125	\$ 8,169,380	\$ 13,176	\$ 8,182,556	\$ (149,569)	-1.80%
Community & Health Services										
Community Services	Salaries	\$ 1,186,369	\$ 1,267,098	\$ 1,287,306	\$ 1,305,013	\$ 1,378,814		\$ 1,378,814	\$ 73,801	5.66%
	Expenses	\$ 395,923	\$ 377,958	\$ 399,092	\$ 493,482	\$ 514,064	-	\$ 514,064	\$ 20,582	4.17%
	Total Community Services	\$ 1,582,292	\$ 1,645,056	\$ 1,686,398	\$ 1,798,495	\$ 1,892,878	\$ -	\$ 1,892,878	\$ 94,383	5.25%
	Board of Health									
	Salaries	\$ 406,542	\$ 435,309	\$ 476,207	\$ 481,783	\$ 563,823		\$ 563,823	\$ 82,040	17.03%
Total Board of Health	Expenses	\$ 28,172	\$ 28,228	\$ 25,645	\$ 37,050	\$ 37,850		\$ 37,850	\$ 800	2.16%
	Other Charges & Expenditures	\$ 10,621	\$ 15,648	\$ 11,980	\$ 15,000	\$ 49,150		\$ 49,150	\$ 34,150	227.67%
	Total Board of Health	\$ 445,335	\$ 479,185	\$ 513,832	\$ 533,833	\$ 650,823	-	\$ 650,823	\$ 116,990	21.92%
	Total Community & Health Services	\$ 2,027,627	\$ 2,124,241	\$ 2,200,230	\$ 2,332,328	\$ 2,543,701	\$ -	\$ 2,543,701	\$ 211,373	9.06%
	Administrative Support Services									
Board of Selectmen	Salaries	\$ 821,914	\$ 952,419	\$ 992,258	\$ 1,056,065	\$ 1,006,197	\$ 18,259	\$ 1,024,456	\$ (31,609)	-2.99%
	Expenses	\$ 246,786	\$ 255,876	\$ 275,450	\$ 252,189	\$ 279,550		\$ 279,550	\$ 27,361	10.85%
	Other Charges & Expenditures	\$ 20,042	\$ 101,107	\$ 93,000	\$ 85,068	\$ 93,000		\$ 93,000	\$ 7,932	9.32%
	Contract Settlements	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,383,000	\$ 134,000	\$ 1,517,000	\$ 1,517,000	#DIV/0!
	Recruitment	\$ 23,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,593	\$ 15,000		\$ 15,000	\$ (21,593)	-59.01%
Total Board of Selectmen	\$ 1,112,337	\$ 1,309,402	\$ 1,360,708	\$ 1,429,915	\$ 2,776,747	\$ 152,259	\$ 2,929,006	\$ 1,499,091	104.84%	
Personnel Board	Other Charges & Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	#DIV/0!
	Total Personnel Board	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ -	0.00%
	Town Report									
	Professional Services	\$ 3,682	\$ 3,428	\$ 4,473	\$ 7,502	\$ 4,100		\$ 4,100	\$ (3,402)	-45.35%
	Total Town Report	\$ 3,682	\$ 3,428	\$ 4,473	\$ 7,502	\$ 4,100		\$ 4,100	\$ (3,402)	-45.35%
Legal	Expenses	\$ 273,678	\$ 218,751	\$ 302,985	\$ 312,922	\$ 334,600	\$ 50,000	\$ 384,600	\$ 71,678	22.91%
	Other Charges & Expenditures	\$ 7,513	\$ 3,469	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,500		\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	#DIV/0!
	Total Legal Services	\$ 281,191	\$ 222,220	\$ 302,985	\$ 312,922	\$ 342,100	\$ 50,000	\$ 392,100	\$ 79,178	25.30%
	Finance									
	Salaries	\$ 1,104,222	\$ 994,223	\$ 1,066,231	\$ 1,066,521	\$ 1,126,811	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,129,311	\$ 62,790	5.89%
Total Finance	Expenses	\$ 257,996	\$ 293,864	\$ 257,206	\$ 255,386	\$ 358,480		\$ 358,480	\$ 103,094	40.37%
	Other Charges & Expenditures	\$ 61,359	\$ 6,633	\$ 1,934	\$ 140,715	\$ 75,000		\$ 75,000	\$ (65,715)	-46.70%
	Total Finance	\$ 1,423,577	\$ 1,294,720	\$ 1,325,371	\$ 1,462,622	\$ 1,562,291	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,562,791	\$ 100,169	6.85%
	Information Technology									
	Salaries	\$ 322,130	\$ 334,447	\$ 342,327	\$ 347,900	\$ 347,899		\$ 347,899	\$ (1)	0.00%
Total Information Technology	Expenses	\$ 419,671	\$ 475,265	\$ 560,732	\$ 566,566	\$ 619,000		\$ 619,000	\$ 52,434	9.25%
	Other Chgs. & Expenditures	\$ 235,237	\$ 310,069	\$ 421,740	\$ 278,100	\$ 354,000		\$ 354,000	\$ 75,900	27.29%
	Total Information Technology	\$ 977,038	\$ 1,119,781	\$ 1,324,799	\$ 1,192,566	\$ 1,320,899		\$ 1,320,899	\$ 128,333	10.76%
	Town Clerk									
	Salaries	\$ 232,989	\$ 239,015	\$ 253,490	\$ 254,357	\$ 262,222		\$ 262,222	\$ 7,865	3.09%
Total Town Clerk	Expenses	\$ 12,628	\$ 15,355	\$ 34,997	\$ 37,942	\$ 49,350		\$ 49,350	\$ 11,408	30.07%
	Total Town Clerk	\$ 245,617	\$ 254,370	\$ 288,487	\$ 292,299	\$ 311,572		\$ 311,572	\$ 19,273	6.59%
	Elections									
	Salaries (Registrars)	\$ 33,378	\$ 34,542	\$ 52,627	\$ 23,615	\$ 62,840		\$ 62,840	\$ 39,225	166.10%
	Expenses (Registrars)	\$ 36,422	\$ 34,287	\$ 39,711	\$ 38,464	\$ 52,350		\$ 52,350	\$ 13,886	36.10%
Total Elections	\$ 69,800	\$ 68,829	\$ 92,338	\$ 62,079	\$ 115,190		\$ 115,190	\$ 53,111	85.55%	
Sealer of Weights & Measures	Salaries	\$ 14,658	\$ 14,658	\$ 14,952	\$ 23,400	\$ 30,400		\$ 30,400	\$ 7,000	29.91%
	Expenses	\$ 783	\$ 860	\$ 838	\$ 818	\$ 890		\$ 890	\$ 72	8.80%
	Total Sealer Weights/Meas.	\$ 15,441	\$ 15,518	\$ 15,790	\$ 24,218	\$ 31,290		\$ 31,290	\$ 7,072	29.20%
	Community & Economic Development									
	Salaries	\$ 695,942	\$ 780,575	\$ 806,931	\$ 882,342	\$ 860,005		\$ 860,005	\$ (22,337)	-2.53%
Total Community & Economic Development	Expenses	\$ 21,753	\$ 30,601	\$ 29,754	\$ 32,153	\$ 64,350		\$ 64,350	\$ 32,197	100.14%
	Total Community & Economic Development	\$ 717,695	\$ 811,176	\$ 836,685	\$ 914,495	\$ 924,355		\$ 924,355	\$ 9,860	1.08%
	Total Admin. Support Services	\$ 4,846,378	\$ 5,099,444	\$ 5,551,636	\$ 5,699,618	\$ 7,387,544	\$ 204,759	\$ 7,592,303	\$ 1,892,685	33.21%

Commissions & Committees											
Finance Committee											
Expenses	\$ 15,894	\$ 19,090	\$ 17,178	\$ 18,663	\$ 37,800	\$ 37,800	\$ 19,137	\$ 102,54%			
<b>Total Finance Committee</b>	<b>\$ 15,894</b>	<b>\$ 19,090</b>	<b>\$ 17,450</b>	<b>\$ 18,663</b>	<b>\$ 37,800</b>	<b>\$ 37,800</b>	<b>\$ 19,137</b>	<b>\$ 102,54%</b>			
Commission on Disability											
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 506	\$ 130	\$ 239	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 511	\$ 213.81%			
<b>Total Commission on Disability</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 506</b>	<b>\$ 130</b>	<b>\$ 239</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ 511</b>	<b>\$ 213.81%</b>			
Natick Cultural Council											
Expenses	\$ 226	\$ 541	\$ 194	\$ 384	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 316	\$ 82.29%			
<b>Total Natick Cultural Council</b>	<b>\$ 226</b>	<b>\$ 541</b>	<b>\$ 194</b>	<b>\$ 384</b>	<b>\$ 700</b>	<b>\$ 700</b>	<b>\$ 316</b>	<b>\$ 82.29%</b>			
Historical Commission											
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	#DIV/0!			
<b>Total Historical Commission</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>\$ 750</b>	<b>#DIV/0!</b>		
Historic District Commission											
Expenses	\$ 309	\$ 347	\$ 421	\$ 450	\$ 550	\$ 550	\$ 100	\$ 22.22%			
<b>Total Historic District Comm.</b>	<b>\$ 309</b>	<b>\$ 347</b>	<b>\$ 421</b>	<b>\$ 450</b>	<b>\$ 550</b>	<b>\$ 550</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>	<b>\$ 22.22%</b>			
Affordable Housing Trust											
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 50,000				
<b>Total Affordable Housing Trust</b>	<b>\$ 309</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>				
<b>Total Commissions &amp; Committees</b>	<b>\$ 16,429</b>	<b>\$ 20,484</b>	<b>\$ 18,195</b>	<b>\$ 19,736</b>	<b>\$ 90,550</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>\$ 120,550</b>	<b>\$ 358.81%</b>			
Shared Expenses (Unclassified)											
Employee Fringe											
Other Personnel Services	\$ 15,187,276	\$ 13,130,813	\$ 11,974,173	\$ 15,063,914	\$ 12,406,787	\$ 12,406,787	\$ (2,657,127)	-17.64%			
Retiree Fringe	\$ -	\$ 3,803,628	\$ 3,649,660	\$ -	\$ 3,269,799	\$ 3,269,799	\$ 3,269,799	#DIV/0!			
Merit & Performance	\$ 22,250	\$ 29,500	\$ 26,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 132,500	757.14%			
<b>Total Employee Fringe</b>	<b>\$ 15,209,526</b>	<b>\$ 16,963,941</b>	<b>\$ 15,649,833</b>	<b>\$ 15,081,414</b>	<b>\$ 15,826,586</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>\$ 15,851,586</b>	<b>\$ 745,172</b>	<b>4.94%</b>		
Property & Liability Insurance											
Purchased Services	\$ 532,389	\$ 570,193	\$ 589,904	\$ 654,557	\$ 756,237	\$ 756,237	\$ 101,680	15.53%			
<b>Total Prop. &amp; Liab. Insurance</b>	<b>\$ 532,389</b>	<b>\$ 570,193</b>	<b>\$ 589,904</b>	<b>\$ 654,557</b>	<b>\$ 756,237</b>	<b>\$ 756,237</b>	<b>\$ 101,680</b>	<b>\$ 15.53%</b>			
Contributory Retirement											
Pension Assessment	\$ 7,079,771	\$ 7,646,153	\$ 8,194,354	\$ 8,764,621	\$ 9,393,294	\$ 9,393,294	\$ 628,673	7.17%			
<b>Total Contributory Retirement</b>	<b>\$ 7,079,771</b>	<b>\$ 7,646,153</b>	<b>\$ 8,194,354</b>	<b>\$ 8,764,621</b>	<b>\$ 9,393,294</b>	<b>\$ 9,393,294</b>	<b>\$ 628,673</b>	<b>7.17%</b>			
Non-Contributory Retirement											
Pensions	\$ 39,549	\$ 38,249	\$ 42,803	\$ 18,593	\$ 23,122	\$ 23,122	\$ 4,529	24.36%			
<b>Total Non-Contributory Retire.</b>	<b>\$ 39,549</b>	<b>\$ 42,368</b>	<b>\$ 42,803</b>	<b>\$ 18,593</b>	<b>\$ 23,122</b>	<b>\$ 23,122</b>	<b>\$ 4,529</b>	<b>\$ 24.36%</b>			
Debt Service											
Leased Equipment	\$ 111,096	\$ 150,371	\$ 148,703	\$ 172,178	\$ 147,203	\$ 147,203	\$ (24,975)	-14.51%			
Leased Land	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,900	\$ 3,900	\$ 6,400	\$ 6,400	\$ 2,500	64.10%			
Principal	\$ 8,195,297	\$ 7,860,855	\$ 7,893,357	\$ 7,833,524	\$ 8,552,071	\$ (1,694,125)	\$ 718,547	9.17%			
Interest	\$ 2,578,344	\$ 2,706,374	\$ 2,449,397	\$ 2,467,250	\$ 3,679,347	\$ 3,679,347	\$ 1,212,097	49.13%			
<b>Total Debt Service</b>	<b>\$ 10,884,737</b>	<b>\$ 10,717,600</b>	<b>\$ 10,495,357</b>	<b>\$ 10,476,852</b>	<b>\$ 12,385,021</b>	<b>\$ (1,694,125)</b>	<b>\$ 1,908,169</b>	<b>\$ 18.21%</b>			
Reserve Fund											
Other Charges	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	0.00%			
<b>Total Reserve Fund</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 300,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.00%</b>			
Shared Expenses (Unclassified) (con't)											
Facilities Management											
Salaries	\$ 2,426,077	\$ 2,394,933	\$ 2,482,931	\$ 2,607,302	\$ 2,685,405	\$ 2,685,405	\$ 78,103	3.00%			
Expenses	\$ 531,435	\$ 481,614	\$ 568,889	\$ 416,643	\$ 623,300	\$ 623,300	\$ 206,657	49.60%			
<b>Total Facilities Management</b>	<b>\$ 2,957,512</b>	<b>\$ 3,004,219</b>	<b>\$ 3,051,820</b>	<b>\$ 3,023,945</b>	<b>\$ 3,308,705</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,308,705</b>	<b>\$ 284,760</b>	<b>9.42%</b>		
<b>Total Shared Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 36,703,484</b>	<b>\$ 39,592,123</b>	<b>\$ 38,324,071</b>	<b>\$ 38,269,982</b>	<b>\$ 41,942,965</b>	<b>\$ (1,669,125)</b>	<b>\$ 40,273,840</b>	<b>\$ 3,672,983</b>	<b>9.60%</b>		
<b>Total General Fund Operations</b>	<b>\$ 120,053,039</b>	<b>\$ 127,216,427</b>	<b>\$ 130,402,854</b>	<b>\$ 135,722,054</b>	<b>\$ 145,020,031</b>	<b>\$ (1,418,179)</b>	<b>\$ 143,601,852</b>	<b>\$ 9,297,977</b>	<b>6.85%</b>		

Reconciliation										
Total General Fund Operations		\$ 120,053,039	\$ 127,216,427	\$ 130,402,854	\$ 135,722,054	\$ 145,020,031	\$ (1,418,179)	\$ 143,601,852	\$ 9,297,977	6.85%
Other General Fund Appropriations										
Capital Equipment and Improvements	\$ 2,003,250	\$ 1,402,850	\$ 2,695,200	\$ 2,166,665	\$ 1,410,800	\$ 2,973,950	\$ 4,384,750	\$ (755,865)		-34.89%
School Bus Subsidy	\$ 355,602	\$ 371,573	\$ 382,720	\$ 392,288	\$ 402,095	\$ 402,095	\$ 402,095	\$ 9,807		2.50%
Misc. Articles	\$ 333,000	\$ 433,635	\$ 216,626	\$ 1,298,695	\$ 485,000	\$ 386,622	\$ 871,622	\$ (813,695)		-62.65%
Golf Course Deficit	\$ 309,087	\$ 280,000	\$ 279,832	\$ 248,400	\$ 270,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 21,600		8.70%
General Stabilization Fund	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -		
Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 2,005,092	\$ 1,343,888	\$ 3,925,532	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,409,678	\$ 1,909,678	\$ (4,000,000)		-88.89%
Operational Stabilization Fund	\$ 625,000		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 500,000		100.00%
One-to-One Tech Stabilization Fund	\$ 100,000			\$ -			\$ -	\$ -		
FAR Bonus Stabilization Fund							\$ -	\$ -		
OPEB Trust Fund	\$ 250,000	\$ 433,635	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 3,900	\$ 272,500	\$ 272,500	\$ (1,000,000)		-100.00%
<b>Total Other G/F Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 6,131,031</b>	<b>\$ 3,831,946</b>	<b>\$ 2,335,546</b>	<b>\$ 9,609,948</b>	<b>\$ 3,567,895</b>	<b>\$ 5,542,750</b>	<b>\$ 9,110,645</b>	<b>\$ (6,042,053)</b>		<b>-62.87%</b>
Other General Fund Expenses (Not appropriated by Town Meeting)										
State & County Assessments	\$ 1,450,370	\$ 1,352,418	\$ 1,449,503	\$ 1,348,800	\$ 1,382,500	\$ 53,387	\$ 1,435,887	\$ 33,700		2.50%
Cherry Sheet Offsets	\$ 300,641	\$ 291,510	\$ 352,530	\$ 434,080	\$ 378,998	\$ 89,707	\$ 468,705	\$ (55,082)		-12.69%
Snow Removal Supplement	\$ 253,499	\$ 699,569	\$ 145,000	\$ 445,869	\$ 150,000	\$ 967,715	\$ 1,117,715	\$ (295,869)		-66.36%
Overlay	\$ 1,160,387	\$ 997,192	\$ 1,283,443	\$ 1,256,448	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ (256,448)		-20.41%
<b>Total Other G/F Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,164,897</b>	<b>\$ 3,340,689</b>	<b>\$ 3,230,476</b>	<b>\$ 3,485,197</b>	<b>\$ 2,911,498</b>	<b>\$ 1,360,809</b>	<b>\$ 4,272,307</b>	<b>\$ (573,699)</b>		<b>-16.46%</b>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 129,348,967</b>	<b>\$ 134,389,062</b>	<b>\$ 136,272,019</b>	<b>\$ 148,817,199</b>	<b>\$ 151,499,424</b>	<b>\$ 5,485,380</b>	<b>\$ 156,984,804</b>	<b>\$ 2,682,225</b>		<b>1.80%</b>





# Town of Natick

## Free Cash Spending Proposal

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
Certified Free Cash as of 7/1/2017	\$ 9,528,960	
.5% of G/F Revenue Set-Aside	\$ (693,096)	Per Financial Management Policies
<b><u>2017 Fall Town Meeting</u></b>		
Article 4: Transfer of FY 2017 Capital Stabilization Fund (Local Option Taxes)	\$ (1,416,843)	Per Financial Management Policies
Article 4: Additional Transfer to Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ (1,083,157)	To accommodate future Capital Needs
Article 8: Transfer to OPEB Stabilization Fund	\$ (741,902)	Per Financial Management Policies
Article 8: Additional Transfer to OPEB Stabilization Fund	\$ (258,098)	
Article 23: Funds for Design & Development of the CRT	\$ (220,000)	
Article 29: Analysis of Current Zoning and Zoning Map	\$ (100,000)	
Article 28: Sawin House	\$ (10,000)	
<b><u>2018 Spring Town Meeting</u></b>		
Article 15: Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ (500,000)	
Article 16: Operational Stabilization Fund	\$ (500,000)	
Article 25: North Main Street Right of Way	\$ (285,000)	
FY 2019 Operating Budget	\$ (3,200,000)	Free Cash for FY 2019 Operating Budget
<b>Remaining Unallocated Balance</b>	<b>\$ 520,864</b>	
<b><u>Other Considerations</u></b>		
Snow and Ice Deficit (Currently \$588,406, Not including recent storm)		
Other Articles		

This Page Intentionally Left Blank

**ARTICLE 1**  
**Fiscal 2019 Omnibus Budget**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the operation of the government of the Town of Natick, including debt and interest, during Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019) and to provide for a reserve fund for Fiscal Year 2019, and to see what budgets for Fiscal 2019 will be reduced to offset said additional appropriations; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

The purpose of the article is to adjust any, of the operating budgets of the various town and/or school department budgets based on changes to revenues, costs of programs and services and other factors.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion 1A:

ARTICLE 1A	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	October 4, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

**MOTION A (Requires majority vote)**

**Move that the Town vote to increase the appropriation voted by the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting under article 7 by the sum of \$272,935, said sum to be distributed as follows:**

- **To supplement the Public Works budget as voted under Article 7 Motion C of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$13,176 to Public Works Salaries.**
- **To supplement the Administrative Support Services budget as voted under Article 7 Motion E of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$18,259 to Board of Selectmen Salaries.**
- **To supplement the Administrative Support Services budget as voted under Article 7 Motion E of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$2,500 to Finance Salaries.**

- **To supplement the Committees and Commissions budget as voted under Article 7 Motion F of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$30,000 to Affordable Housing Trust Expenses.**
- **To supplement the Shared Services budget as voted under Article 7 Motion G of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$25,000 to Other Personnel Services - Merit / Performance**
- **To supplement the Board of Selectmen's budget as voted under Article 7 Motion E of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting by adding \$134,000 to CBA Settlements.**
- **To supplement the Legal budget as voted under Article 7 Motion E of the 2018 Annual Town Meeting by adding \$50,000 to Expenses.**

**With the above Budget, be raised from following sources:**

**Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2019 \$272,935**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion 1B:

ARTICLE 1B	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	October 4, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

MOTION B: (Requires majority vote)

**Move that the Town vote to decrease the appropriation voted by the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting under article 7 by the sum of \$1,694,125, said sum to be distributed as follows:**

- **To reduce the Shared Services budget as voted under Article 7 Motion G of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by reducing the Debt Service line item by \$1,694,125.**

**With the above Budget, be reduced from the following sources:**

**Tax Levy of Fiscal Year 2019 \$1,694,125**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion 1C:

ARTICLE 1C	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	October 4, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

MOTION C: (Requires majority vote)

**Move that the Town vote to decrease the appropriation voted by the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting under article 7 by the sum of \$60,000, said sum to be distributed as follows:**

- **To reduce the Water and Sewer Operations budget as voted under Article 7 Motion H of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by \$60,000.**

**With the above Budget be reduced from the following sources:**

**Water and Sewer User Fees \$60,000**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion 1D:

ARTICLE 1D	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	October 4, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

MOTION D (Requires majority vote)

**Move that the Town vote to increase the appropriation voted by the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting under article 9 by the sum of \$3,011, said sum to be distributed as follows:**

- **To supplement the Bacon Free Library Salaries and Expenses budget as voted under Article 9 of the 2018 Spring Annual Town Meeting by adding \$3,011.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

Members gathered information and asked questions to Town Administration on the proposed budget changes, including the following topic areas:

- A majority of the increases in funding to the Salaries lines for each operating budget is primarily due to the funding of performance bonuses for employees. The performance

bonus is one component of the Town's compensation plan which also includes salary, benefits, salary merit increases and the performance bonus.

- The Selectmen's budget increase is to account for the new contract for the current Town Administrator as well as meeting contract obligations for the prior Town Administrator
- The Debt Services funding in Motion B is being reduced as the expected borrowing for the Kennedy Middle School and the West Natick Fire Station in FY 19 is unlikely and therefore the budget can be reduced.
- The reduction in Motion C is similar in that there won't be a debt payment for borrowing not borrowed.
- The increase for the Bacon Free Library is to provide an increase in the hourly rate for staff, to meet the State's minimum wage threshold.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 2**  
**Stabilization Fund**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund established under Article 22 of the warrant for Annual Town Meeting of 1961, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To transfer funds in to the Stabilization Fund.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 2	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	August 30, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority / 2/3 majority vote)

**Move that the Town vote to appropriate \$300,000 from free cash for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund established under Article 22 of the warrant for Annual Town Meeting of 1961, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

For this Stabilization Fund the Financial Management Principles adopted by the Board of Selectmen indicate the target is 5% of general revenue. For FY '18 would suggest approximately \$7,000,00 is the target balance. Our current funding is \$4,000,005

**ARTICLE 3**  
**Operational/Rainy Day Stabilization Fund**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the purpose of supplementing the Operational Stabilization Fund established by vote of the 2011 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 4, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 3	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	August 30, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority / 2/3 majority vote)

**Move that the Town vote to appropriate \$500,000 from free cash for the purpose of supplementing the Stabilization Fund established under Article 4 of the warrant for 2011 Spring Annual Town Meeting, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

the current balance is over \$3,000.000, with a target is \$6,100,000, based on the Financial Management Principles. The fund balance has grown over the last three years through the increases in state aid plus the cumulative sum of 5% of the last three years of local receipts is \$6,100.000.



**ARTICLE 4**  
**Capital Stabilization Fund**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established under Article 2 of the warrant for Fall Annual Town Meeting of 2010, as authorized by Chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To fund the Capital Stabilization Fund which is then used as a source of funding for various smaller capital projects during the fiscal year.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 4	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	August 30, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority / 2/3 majority vote)

**Move that the Town vote to appropriate \$1,409,678 from free cash for the purpose of supplementing the Capital Stabilization Fund established by the vote of Article 2 of the 2010 Fall Annual town Meeting, as authorized by chapter 40, Section 5B of the General Laws, as amended.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

The current balance of this fund is shown in the chart at the front of this book

**ARTICLE 5**  
**Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Appropriation or Transfer of Funds**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for, the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund established pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws as amended by section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

The OPEB Trust Fund pays benefits to retirees and was established in 2016. The purpose of this article is to appropriate additional funds to the Trust Fund.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 5	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 13, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority / 2/3 majority vote)

**Move that the Town vote to appropriate \$272,500 from free cash for the purpose of funding the Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund authorized by a vote of the 2017 Spring Annual Town Meeting under Article 15, as authorized by Chapter 32B, Section 20 of the General Laws as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

During the public hearing information was gathered and questions answered including the following:

- The Town Administrator shared the following information for context on the funding request under this article:

- The OPEB Trust Fund pays benefits to retirees and was established in 201
- The first transfer to the actual trust was \$720,807 in FY16 and has grown to \$3,260,603 in FY18.
- There is a fund balance increase of \$96,500 of investment income
- Continuing to appropriate money to this Trust Fund is an important signal to bond rating authorities that Natick is addressing this liability to demonstrate sound financial management.
- The basis for requesting the \$272,500 is based on application of the Town's Financial Management Principles (See Appendix) and is calculated as follows:
  - Started with an estimated amount that is expected from free cash for the fiscal year
  - Subtract 0.5 % of general fund revenues
  - Subtract the meals and hotels tax revenues
  - With the remaining balance of \$2.72 million (estimated), take 10% of that figure to determine the proposed OPEB contribution.

A question was asked as to where the Town is with respect to fully funding our OPEB liability for our current employees.

- Town Administration shared that the town has a “pay-as-you-go” system that ensures that we are funding current employee's retirement needs, as well as our retirees and this is done inside the Shared Services budget, appropriated by Town Meeting.
- With respect to adding or reducing the OPEB liability, the annual payments are \$1 million, and this allocation is enough to keep the OPEB fund level.

**ARTICLE 6**  
**Appropriate Funds for the Family of Michael McDaniel Jr.**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate funds to supplement the prior appropriations given to the widow of Michael McDaniel Jr., long time employee of the Town of Natick Department of Public Works, killed in the line of duty on February 4, 2014; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 6	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	August 30, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION: (Requires a majority / 2/3 majority vote)**

“Move to appropriate the sum of \$36,622.20, sourced from Free Cash, in addition to \$100,000 appropriated under Article 1 of the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting and the \$50,000 appropriated under Article 1 of the 2015 Spring Annual Town Meeting, said sum to be deposited to a “529 Educational Savings Plan” to be held in the name of The Kathleen McDaniel Educational Trust, Kathleen McDaniel being the widow of Michael McDaniel Jr., long time employee of the Town of Natick Department of Public Works, killed in the line of duty on February 4, 2014.”

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

The \$150,000 appropriated by prior Town Meeting votes were not invested in a Trust Fund in a timely manner as they should have. Further, it was determined by the Town Administration that the Trust documents had also not been completed and signed by either party.

- It should be noted that the paperwork for the John Hancock 529 plan was signed by Kathleen McDaniel.

- However, though the Town of Natick's Treasurer was listed as the co-trustee, this trust fund not set up, and the funds appropriated were not deposited into a 529 Plan account with John Hancock.
- To remedy the situation Town Counsel has or will shortly create a trust to include this 529 plan

The prior votes of Town Meeting directed the appropriation to specifically be in a 529 Plan.

- These types of funds typically invest on the basis of the age of the child, investing in riskier, higher yield returns in the earlier years and more conservative investments as the child approaches college age.
- Had these funds been invested, the requested amount of \$36,622.20 is the return that our financial advisors indicate that the account "would have" received.
- The calculation was based on the date of the Town Meeting votes and includes the amount that would have accumulated were the investments made at the appropriate times.

**ARTICLE 7**  
**Transfer of Unexpended Bond Proceeds**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will authorize the transfer of unexpended proceeds from amounts previously borrowed to pay costs of various capital projects, which projects are now complete, and for which such funds are no longer needed, to pay costs of one or more capital projects; or take any other action relative thereto.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

This article is to use previously appropriated but unexpended funds that are available in in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund to be re-appropriated to other qualifying projects.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

There are two motions under Article 7 and the Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion A:

ARTICLE #7	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
Motion A	September 13, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

**MOTION A: (Two-thirds vote required)**

**Move that the sum of \$500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of construction of the Replace Groundwater Wells, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, which project was approved by vote of the Town under Article 14, Motion D of the Warrant at the 2018 Annual Spring Town Meeting, and that to meet this appropriation, \$500,000 is transferred from a portion of the balance of the amount previously appropriated and borrowed by the Town under Article 6 Motion C of the Warrant at the 2007 Annual Fall Town Meeting to pay costs of Phase 5 Relining, which amount is no longer needed to complete the project for which it was originally borrowed. The amount authorized to be borrowed by the Town pursuant to Article 14, Motion D of the Warrant at the 2018 Annual Spring Town Meeting, but not yet borrowed by the Town, shall be reduced to the extent of the funds transferred to this project by this vote.**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion B:

ARTICLE #7	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
Motion B	September 13, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

**MOTION B: (Two-thirds vote required)**

**Move that the sum of \$667,000 is appropriated to pay costs of construction of the Fox Hill Drive Water Main, and for the payment of all costs incidental and related thereto, which project was approved by vote of the Town under Article 14, Motion D of the Warrant at the 2018 Annual Spring Town Meeting, and that to meet this appropriation, \$316,621.52 is transferred from a portion of the balance of the amount previously appropriated and borrowed by the Town under Article 9 of the Warrant at the 2006 Annual Spring Town Meeting to pay costs of Sewer Speen, North Main, Park Project, which amount is no longer needed to complete the project for which it was originally borrowed and that \$150,106.21 is transferred from a portion of the balance of the amount previously appropriated and borrowed by the Town under Article 17 of the Warrant at the 1998 Annual Fall Town Meeting to pay costs of Waterline Lakeshore Project ; \$141,051.66 is transferred from a portion of the balance of the amount previously appropriated and borrowed by the Town under Article 6 Motion C of the Warrant at the 2007 Annual Fall Town Meeting to pay costs of Phase 5 Relining, which amount is no longer needed to complete the project for which it was originally borrowed and \$56, 220.61 from Water & Sewer retained earnings. The amount authorized to be borrowed by the Town pursuant to Article 14, Motion D of the Warrant at the 2018 Annual Spring Town Meeting, but not yet borrowed by the Town, shall be reduced to the extent of the funds transferred to this project by this vote.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

During testimony the Town Administrator shared that these motions are designed to clean up the unexpended items in the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund. A priority of the Administration is to examine the financial books and clean them up, to make best use of the monies.

Motion A appropriates \$500,000 for the construction of the Replace Groundwater Wells project.

Motion B appropriates \$667,000 to pay for construction of the Fox Hill Drive Water Main.  
Sources of this appropriation are:

- \$316,621.52 transferred from the previously appropriated amount and borrowed to pay for Sewer Speen, North Main, Park Project
- \$150,106.21 transferred from the Waterline Lakeshore project
- \$138,276.33 transferred from Phase 5 Relining
- \$61,995.94 transferred from Water & Sewer retained earnings.

The committee asked questions and gathered information from Town Administration including:

- How prior funding was completed and it was explained that the borrowings were done at various intervals and borrowing amounts and were not funded at one particular time
  - It was noted that prior to 2002 and the creation of the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund (WSEF), the \$150,106.21 came from the general fund and a taxpayer may contend how they had previously paid for water and sewer (pre-2002). Town Administration believes that given the relatively low dollar amount, this should not be an issue. It was further stipulated that this debt was paid out of the WSEF and the account numbers on these entries or water and sewer accounts.
- The time periods and prior Town Meeting votes and appropriations of the borrowing that created these excess funds

During debate members expressed a common perspective that the committee is:

- Appreciative of the administration for its efforts investigating how to finance these infrastructure projects
- Noted that this is a good start to implementing the process of examining accounts and determining their current status – whether the funds are still needed for the original project, or whether the funds can be used for other projects. Which in turn saves the town money that's already been borrowed, especially when it's a project that's very similar.

-END OF ARTICLE-



**ARTICLE 8**  
**Collective Bargaining**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide, to implement any Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Town Natick and any recognized bargaining units of the Town; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

This article is to effect the changes to the Town's operating budgets caused by accepting Collective Bargaining agreements.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #8	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 20, 2018	No Action	13-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move No Action**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

The Board of Selectmen has requested No Action at this time as there have been no changes to any of the Collective Bargaining Agreements.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 9**  
**Personnel Board Classification and Pay Plan**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town, pursuant to the authority contained in Section 108A of Chapter 41 of the General Laws, will vote to amend Article 24 of the Natick Town By-Laws, specifically the Classification and Pay Plan referenced in Section 3, paragraph 3.10 therein, by adding, deleting or amending position titles; re-classifying positions to a different Grade; and/or effecting changes in the salary ranges as presently established; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

This article is to effect the changes to the Town's Personnel Classification and Pay Plan caused by accepting the Personnel Board's recommendation.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #9	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 13, 2018	No Action	9-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move No Action**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

The Personnel Board has requested No Action at this time as there have been no changes to Personnel Classification and Pay Plan.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 10**  
**Committee Report**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to hear and discuss the reports of town officers, boards, and committees; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To hear from the various Town Committees and Boards.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #10	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move to hear and discuss the Committee Report from the Cochituate Rail Trail Committee**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

A copy of the report is contained in the Appendix.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 11**  
**Rescind Authorized, Unissued Debt**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the authorization for unissued debt that has been determined is no longer needed for the completion of various projects; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To rescind authorized but unissued debt of the Town from one or more borrowing appropriations voted by Town Meeting.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #11	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 13, 2018	No Action	9-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move No Action**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

Town Administration requested no action at this time.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 12**  
**Unpaid Bills**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide for the payment of unpaid bills of previous years, incurred by the departments, boards and officers of the Town of Natick; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To appropriate funds to pay unpaid bills from the prior fiscal year (FY'18).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #12	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 13, 2018	No Action	9-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move No Action**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

Town Administration requested no action at this time.

-END OF ARTICLE-

-

## ARTICLE 13 Capital Equipment

### ARTICLE LANGUAGE:

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide as may be required for capital equipment for the various departments of the Town of Natick; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or otherwise act thereon.

### PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:

To fund required capital equipment for the Town.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion A:

ARTICLE #13A	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

<b>MOTION A: (two-thirds vote required)</b>				
Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$775,000 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of replacing a trash packer (vehicle 504), replacing a truck/sander (vehicle 408), replacing a Trackless (Vehicle 426) individually shown as items 1 - 3 in Table A below, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$775,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$775,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.				
<b>TABLE A - MOTION A: Article 13 - Capital Equipment - 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting</b>				
Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
1	Public Works	Replace Trash Packer (Vehicle 504)	Tax Levy Borrowing	\$ 305,000
2	Public Works	Replace Truck/Sander (Vehicle 408)	Tax Levy Borrowing	\$ 250,000
3	Public Works	Replace H-70 Trackless (Vehicle 426)	Tax Levy Borrowing	\$ 220,000
<b>Appropriation under Article 13: MOTION A</b>				<b>\$ 775,000</b>

More motions on the following page

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion B:

ARTICLE #13B	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION B: (two-thirds vote required)**

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,028,950 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works to upgrade Garage Equipment, replace a Hook-Lift Truck (Vehicle 205), replace dumpsters, and purchase Seeding Equipment, and under the direction of the Facilities Management Department to install thirty five (35) classroom projectors at the Wilson Middle School, purchase classroom furniture, fixtures, and equipment at the Lilja Elementary School, purchase new furniture at the Natick High School, purchase additional storage lockers at the Natick High School, and under the direction of the Fire Department to purchase replacement radios, and under the direction of the Police Department to purchase and install bi-directional amplifiers at the Bennett Hemenway Elementary School, replace police cruisers, replace laptop computers, Emergency Operations Center/Training Center Audio Visual Upgrade, replace variable message boards, replace the comparator and voting modules, and under the direction of Town Administration to purchase and install document storage systems individually shown as items 1 through 16 in Table B below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$1,028,950 be raised from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

**TABLE B, MOTION B: Article 13 - Capital Equipment - 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting**

Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
1	Public Works	Upgrade Garage Equipment	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 155,000
2	Public Works	Replace Hook-Lift Truck (Vehicle 205)	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 140,000
3	Public Works	Replace Dumpsters	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 15,000
4	Public Works	Seeding Equipment	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 16,500
5	Facilities	Wilson - Install 35 Classroom Projectors	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 87,500
6	Facilities	Lilja School - Purchase Classroom FFE	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 50,000
7	Facilities	High School - Purchase New Furniture	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 25,000
8	Facilities	High School - Purchase Additional Storage Lockers	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 10,000
9	Fire	Radio Replacement	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 210,000
10	Police	Bennett Hemenway Bi-Directional Amplifiers	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 44,000
11	Police	Cruiser Replacement	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 100,000
12	Police	EOC/Training Center AV Upgrade	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 40,000
13	Police	Replace Variable Message Boards	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 17,250
14	Police	Replace Comparator And Voting Modules	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 12,500
15	Police	Replace Laptop Computers	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 6,200
16	Town Admin.	Document Storage Systems	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 100,000
<b>Appropriation under Article 13: MOTION B</b>				<b>\$ 1,028,950</b>

The Finance Committee recommends the following action on Motion C:

ARTICLE #13C	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION C: (two-thirds vote required)**

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$80,000 to be expended under the direction of the Public Works Department for purpose of upgrading SCADA equipment, individually shown as item 1, in Table C below, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$80,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 8, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$80,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**TABLE C, MOTION C: Article 13 - Capital Equipment - 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting**

Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
1	Water Sewer Enterprise	SCADA Equipment Upgrade	Water Sewer Borrowing	\$ 80,000
<b>Appropriation under Article 13: MOTION C</b>				<b>\$ 80,000</b>

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

The committee asked some questions seeking clarification on various items in Motions A-C.

There was some discussion on the need for the AC Duct Cleaning for Wilson Middle School and a alternate motion was put forth seeking Favorable Action but removing that line item. The motion for higher amount (the total requested budget) was voted first and carried with a 10-1-1 vote.

The detailed description of the Capital Equipment is on the following pages.



2018 FATM Article 13		Capital Equipment Descriptions		Amount	Funding Source
Department	Description				
DPW - HSR	Replacing Vehicle 504 (S-34) Trash Packer		\$ 305,000		GF Debt
These funds will replace a 2009 Peterbilt Rear Load Trash Packer with 102,742 Miles and 9,435 Hours. The vehicle has reached the end of its useful life, with numerous maintenance needs (rear axle/cross member, packer blade and cylinders, body/frame rot, trash body floor, exhaust DPF system, seat, steering wheel/shaft, transmission, shocks, etc.)					
DPW - HSR	Replace Vehicle 408 (H-43) Truck/Sander		\$ 250,000		GF Debt
These funds will replace a 2006 Volvo Dump Truck/Sander with 61,845 Miles and numerous maintenance needs (electric system, transmission, plow system, exhaust system, etc.					
DPW - HSR	Replace Vehicle 426 (H-70) Trackless		\$ 220,000		GF Debt
These funds will replace a 2006 Trackless Sidewalk Tractor with 12,887 Miles, 1,702.8 Hours. The vehicle is at the end of its useful life with numerous maintenance needs (transmission, clutch, pto, brakes, frame damage, articulating pin, radiator, etc.).					
DPW - Equip Main	Upgrade Garage Equipment		\$ 155,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
The equipment maintenance garage is 30 years old and original shop equipment constructed with the building has reached the end of its useful life. Items include the shop air compressor, equipment lifts, portable lifts, overhead oil reels, brake lathe, garage doors, metal shear, metal break, air ventilation system (both portable for the welding bay and exhaust ventilation to attach to the trucks).					
DPW - Equip Main	Replace Vehicle 205 (LF-5) Hook-Lift Truck		\$ 140,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
These funds will be used to replace a 2006 F-550 hook-lift truck w/ snow plow. This truck is used to haul dumpsters for landscape debris, tow wood chipper and leaf vac. This equipment is essential for tree and landscape needs of the Land facilities and Natural Resources Division.					
DPW - HSR	Replace Dumpsters		\$ 15,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
This is an annual request to replace rotted and rusted dumpsters that service our municipal and school buildings.					
DPW - LFNR	Seeding Equipment		\$ 16,500		Capital Stabilization Fund
These funds will be used to purchase seeding equipment that will increase seed germination. Equipment will improve seedling germination and allow the department to seed in season to reduce turf canopy loss throughout the growing season.					
Facilities	Wilson School- Install 35 Classroom Projectors		\$ 87,500		Capital Stabilization Fund
Funds would be used to replace 35 classroom projectors. The projectors are over 10 years old and nearing the end of their useful life. The new projectors are Epson Ultra Short Throw wall mounted. Cost includes any required installation.					
Facilities	Lilja School- Purchase Classroom FFE		\$ 50,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
Purchase new furniture, fixtures and equipment to replace existing to help support the changing learning environment.					
Facilities	NHS - Purchase New Furniture		\$ 25,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
Purchase new furniture to accommodate increasing enrollment.					
Facilities	NHS - Purchase Additional Storage Lockers		\$ 10,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
Purchase new lockers for both the boys and girls locker rooms to accommodate increasing enrollment.					
Fire	Radio Replacement		\$ 210,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
This is phase one of the fire radio replacement. These funds will replace 48 radios. The current radios will no longer be supported after January 2019.					
Police	Bennett Hemenway Bi-Directional Amplifiers		\$ 44,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
This will add bi-directional amplifiers inside the Bennett Hemenway Elementary School. This will provide reliable radio service within the school for first responders. This is similar to the project completed at the Memorial Elementary School.					
Police	Cruiser Replacement		\$ 100,000		Capital Stabilization Fund
This request is an annual request that replaces Police cruisers. We typically request three in the Spring and two in the Fall. This request is for two cruisers; Car 66 with 83,028 Miles (will be over 100,000 at replacement), and 12,551 engine hours and Car 79 with 82,008 Miles (will be over 100,000 at replacement), and 8,559 engine hours.					

<b>Police</b>	<b>EOC/Training Center AV Upgrade</b>	<b>\$ 40,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
This proposed project will allow us to update the av equipment in the Natick Emergency Operations center/training room. This room is predominately used to provide training locally to our public safety personnel as well as town employees. It is also used to bring in national instructors to deliver training regionally. Most importantly this room is used as our local emergency operations center. Recently some key features of our audio visual equipment has begun to fail. This includes projectors, screens and speakers for audio. Approximately 6 years ago we updated many of the features in this room but not the original AV equipment installed when building was built.			
<b>Police</b>	<b>Replace Variable Message Boards</b>	<b>\$ 17,250</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
This proposed project would replace our two current message boards (one each of the following years). The original message boards were purchased with grant funding in 2006 and 2008 respectively. They are starting to fail more frequently, requiring expensive repairs. Specifically, the batteries and charging system is failing as well as the light diodes. This equipment has seen increased use due to the many construction projects and recently has been used for messages related to meetings, water bans and general announcements. We will continue to seek grant funding to purchase as this request moves forward.			
<b>Police</b>	<b>Replace Comparator And 8 Voting Modules</b>	<b>\$ 12,500</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
In 2017 it was necessary to use the town's spare voter comparator and modules to replace the voter system installed in 2008 for the fire ground channel. The Digital voter system had become unreliable and despite numerous maintenance attempts did not meet the level of performance required for daily use. This unplanned replacement project depleted the inventory of spare comparators and voter modules. This procurement will bring the spares inventory to the level recommended by the Town's radio engineer to support 24/7/365 operations.			
<b>Police</b>	<b>Replace Laptop Computers</b>	<b>\$ 6,200</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
This proposed project will allow us to begin a cycle to replace the laptop computers that are in each of our marked vehicles. These computers are used to access warrant and registration data by officers in the cruiser. In addition, they can write reports and access all information available from station computers. With the addition of new technology they will soon be able to get maps, floor plans and critical information such as alerts directly by the laptop. What we are finding is since these laptops are in constant use and are subject to the harsh temperatures they tend to fail and require repair constantly. We are able to purchase 3 year warranties. The last time we replaced all laptops was in FY2015. The downside of this process was that all came out of warranty at the same time and many repairs were needed to multiple units. This project would replace 4 each year.			
<b>Town Admin.</b>	<b>Document Storage Systems</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
This request is to install document storage hardware. This is the fourth phase of the project. This year will focus on storage systems for three departments, the Retirement Board, the Natick Public Schools, and Information Technology.			
<b>Water Sewer Enterprise</b>	<b>SCADA Equipment Upgrade</b>	<b>\$ 80,000</b>	<b>Water Sewer Borrowing</b>
The next phase of the water and sewer SCADA upgrade will focus on upgrading the SCADA equipment at the evergreen and elm bank well sites. The upgrade will provide additional remote controls by the operators to facilitate a more refined operation of the remote well sites. Elm Bank will also receive an upgrade to the communications medium between the Elm Bank water treatment plant and the two remote Elm Bank water supply wells.			

END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 14**  
**Capital Improvement**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide to implement a Capital Improvement Program, to protect the physical infrastructure of the Town of Natick, to add new physical infrastructure, or to improve community assets; and, further, to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise; or to otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To fund various capital improvement projects throughout the Town consistent with the five-year Capital Plan.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
#14A	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	10-1-1

The Motion is found on the next page.

**MOTION A: (two-thirds vote required)**

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,945,000 to be expended under the direction of the Department of Public Works for replacing garage doors, guardrail purchase and installation, park and field renovations, tree replacement and a tree inventory, and under the direction of the Facilities Management Department for the upgrade of electrical or generator at the Memorial School, replacing classroom carpet with tile at the Brown Elementary School, replacing exhaust fans at the Memorial Elementary School, replacing carpeting at the Public Safety Building, replacing bathroom partitions and sinks at the Lilja Elementary School, replacing chilled water supply lines at the Morse Institute Library, installing air conditioning in the Art Room, Music Room, and the Cafeteria at the Brown Elementary School, rehabilitating three office bathrooms at the Johnson Elementary School, replacing the carpet in the teacher's room with tile at the Wilson Middle School, cleaning the air conditioning ducts at the Wilson Middle School, installing a water bubbler/ice maker at the Memorial Field House, engineering for the roof replacement at the Morse Institute Library, installing modular classrooms at the Kennedy Middle School, and under the Direction of Town Administration for Memorial Field parking lot repairs and improvements, for energy efficiency projects, and under the direction of the Police Department for installation of parking meters, individually shown as items 1 through 21 in Table A below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$1,945,000 be raised from the Capital Stabilization Fund.

**TABLE A, MOTION A: Article 14 - Capital Improvements - 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting**

Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
1	Public Works	Replace Public Works Garage Doors	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 145,000
2	Public Works	Guardrail Purchase and Installation(Various Locations)	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 10,000
3	Public Works	Park And Field Renovations	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 205,000
4	Public Works	Tree Replacement	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 30,000
5	Public Works	Tree Inventory	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 10,000
6	Facilities	Memorial School - Electrical or Generator Upgrades	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 75,000
7	Facilities	Brown School - Replace Classroom Carpet With Tile	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 100,000
8	Facilities	Memorial School - Replace Exhaust Fans	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 65,000
9	Facilities	Public Safety - Replace Carpet With Tile	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 60,000
10	Facilities	Lilja - Replace Bathroom Partitions And Sinks	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 40,000
11	Facilities	Library - Replace Chilled Water Supply Lines	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 35,000
12	Facilities	Brown - Install AC in the Art and Music Rooms and Cafeteria	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 30,000
13	Facilities	Johnson - Rehab Three Office Bathrooms	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 30,000
14	Facilities	Wilson - Teachers Room - Replace Carpet with Tile	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 10,000
15	Facilities	Wilson - AC Duct Cleaning	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 25,000
16	Facilities	Memorial Field House (NHS Athletics) - Install Water Bubbler / Ice Maker	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 10,000
17	Facilities	Library - Replace The Roof (Engineering)	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 50,000
18	Facilities	Modulars Kennedy Middle School	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 455,000
19	Town Administration	Memorial Field Parking Lot Repair And Improvement	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 350,000
20	Town Administration	Energy Efficiency Projects	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 150,000
21	Police	Parking Meter Installation	Capital Stabilization Fund	\$ 60,000
<b>Appropriation under Article 14: MOTION A</b>				<b>\$ 1,945,000</b>

ARTICLE #14B	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION B: (two-thirds vote required)**

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of the Public Works Department for purpose of water distribution system enhancements individually shown as item 1, in Table B below, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow \$150,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 8, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$150,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

**TABLE B, MOTION B: Article 14 - Capital Equipment - 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting**

Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
1	Water Sewer Enterprise	Water Distribution System Enhancements	Water Sewer Borrowing	\$ 150,000
<b>Appropriation under Article 14: MOTION B</b>				<b>\$ 150,000</b>

ARTICLE #14C	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION C: (majority vote required)**

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$20,500 to be expended under the direction of the Public Works Department for the purpose of the engineering for replacing Water Treatment Plant stand-by generators, and engineering for the replacement of the Capt Tom's booster pump, individually shown as items 1 and 2 in Table C below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$20,500 be raised from the Water Sewer Retained Earnings.

**TABLE C - MOTION C: Article 14 - Capital Equipment - 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting**

Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
1	Water Sewer Enterprise	Replace Water Treatment Plant Stand-by Generators (Engineering)	Retained Earnings	\$ 10,500
2	Water Sewer Enterprise	Capt Tom's Booster Pump (Engineering)	Retained Earnings	\$ 10,000
<b>Appropriation under Article 14: MOTION C</b>				<b>\$ 20,500</b>

ARTICLE #14D	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 25, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION D:(two-thirds vote required)**

Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of the Public Works Department for the purpose of Sewer Collection System Repairs & Maintenance, individually shown as item 1 in Table D below, and that to meet this appropriation the sum of \$150,000 be raised from the Inflow and Infiltration Stabilization Fund.

**TABLE D - MOTION D: Article 14 - Capital Equipment - 2018 Fall Annual Town Meeting**

Item #	Department	Item	Funding Source	Amount
1	Water Sewer Enterprise	Sewer Collection System Repairs & Maint	I & I Stabilization Fund	\$ 150,000
<b>Appropriation under Article 14: MOTION D</b>				<b>\$ 150,000</b>

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

There was some discussion on the need for the AC Duct Cleaning for Wilson Middle School, under Motion A, and a alternate motion was put forth seeking Favorable Action but removing that line item. The motion for higher amount (the total requested budget) was voted first and carried with a 10-1-1 vote.

-

2018 FATM Article 14		Capital Improvement Descriptions		
Department	Description	Amount	Funding Source	
DPW - Equip Main	Replace Public Works Garage Doors	\$ 145,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Replace garage doors at the Department of Public Works equipment maintenance building and fleet storage building.				
DPW - HSR	Guardrails (Various Locations)	\$ 10,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Replace and install guardrails at various locations throughout the town. This is a recurring request.				
DPW - LFNR	Park And Field Renovations	\$ 205,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
All located funds would be used to improve park and athletic space based on the capital schedule. Funds would be used to repair backstops, replace protective fencing, add identity and regulatory signage, improve irrigation systems, improve infield surfaces, and repair or replace player benches and spectator stands.				
DPW - LFNR	Tree Replacement	\$ 30,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
This request is to continue an annual reforestation of the Town of Natick. Through normal loss of trees in any given year, Natick loses 30 trees. In recent years, large and damaging storms have in some cases doubled or nearly tripled the rate of loss. This appropriation would purchase approximately 20 full-sized trees @ \$1,500/tree.				
DPW - LFNR	Tree Inventory	\$ 10,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Funds would be used to continue to add and to develop a complete town wide inventory to prioritize risk, accurately access value and prioritize high risk mitigation. Inventory information would show the location, risk analysis, value, and plant health care recommendations.				
Facilities	Memorial School Generator	\$ 75,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
The generator at Memorial Elementary School is failing. The generator supports emergency lighting and refrigeration systems. Parts are extremely difficult to find due to the generator's age. Repair costs have rapidly increased in the last year. Upgrades will be required. We are awaiting firm numbers to determine next steps.				
Facilities	Brown School - Replace Classroom Carpet With Tile	\$ 100,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Remove existing carpet inside 20 classrooms and replace with new VCT flooring. The new flooring will match the existing flooring. Area carpet similar to that in use in other elementary schools will be purchased.				
Facilities	Memorial School - Replace 32 Exhaust Fans	\$ 65,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Replace all 32 exhaust fan on the roof with new high efficiency units. This cost is for material only, install labor will be covered by the maintenance staff.				
Facilities	Public Safety - Replace Carpet With Tile	\$ 60,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Replace carpeting in admin offices, conference room, locker rooms. The existing carpet is original to the building and nearing the end of useful life.				
Facilities	Lilja School - Replace Bathroom Partitions And Sinks	\$ 40,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Replace bathroom partitions and sinks inside the student bathrooms.				
Facilities	Morse Library - Replace Chilled Water Supply Lines	\$ 35,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
The chilled water system has four storage tanks and the current supply and return lines are starting to fail and should be replaced to ensure uninterrupted service.				
Facilities	Brown School - Install AC Inside The Art And Music Rooms & Cafeteria	\$ 30,000	Capital Stabilization Fund	
Currently there is no air condition inside the art or music rooms. During large gathering the space quickly overheats especially during the late spring and early fall. These funds would install AC units in each space.				

<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Johnson School - Rehab Three Office Bathrooms</b>	<b>\$ 30,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
The Johnson Elementary School has four bathrooms for staff use. Three are old and need rehabilitation to avoid failure. These funds would be used to rehabilitate the bathrooms.			
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Wilson School - Teachers Room Floor Replacement</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
These funds will be used to replace the carpet in the teachers room with VCT flooring. The carpet shows significant wear.			
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Wilson School - AC Duct Cleaning</b>	<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
These funds will be used to clean all HVAC ducts throughout the school.			
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Memorial Field House (NHS Athletics) - Install Water Bubbler / Ice Maker</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
Purchase and install a new water bubbler and ice maker for the Memorial Field House.			
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Morse Library - Replace The Roof (Engineering)</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
This request will provide the engineering required to engineer and estimate the cost to replace the roof at the Morse Institute Library.			
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>Kennedy Middle School - Modulars</b>	<b>\$ 455,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
Funding would allow the installation of 2 temporary classrooms to accommodate the increased enrollment until the new Kennedy Middle School is completed.			
<b>Town Administration</b>	<b>Memorial Field Parking Lot Repair And Improvement</b>	<b>\$ 350,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
These funds will be used to reconstruct the Memorial Football Field parking lot. Existing pavement is in poor condition and there are safety concerns with the current layout. The Town plans to install solar canopies over the lot using funds provided through our Power Purchase Agreements.			
<b>Police</b>	<b>Parking Meter Installation - ADA Compliance</b>	<b>\$ 60,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
This proposed project will allow us to complete the parking meter upgrade. These funds are to install the meter posts that will provide greater customer access. All equipment for this installation was purchased through a previous appropriation. The Town started the meter and kiosk upgrade in 2014.			
<b>Town Administration/Sustainability</b>	<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>Capital Stabilization Fund</b>
In FY2018, the Town of Natick identified a variety of building-focused energy conservation measures that would result in approximately \$75,000 in annual energy cost savings. These projects include;			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Led lighting conversions at the Bennett Hemenway Elementary School, The Brown Elementary School, the Cole Center, The DPW, the Memorial Elementary School, and the Public Safety Headquarters</li> <li>• Variable frequency drives (VFDs) for rooftop units at Public Safety Headquarters</li> <li>• VFD for chilled water pump at Morse Institute Library</li> <li>• replacement of Liebert system at Morse Institute Library with ductless minisplit system</li> <li>• retro-commissioning of Morse Institute Library to ensure it is operating efficiently and in accordance with current ASHRAE(American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers) guidance</li> </ul>			

<b>Water Sewer Enterprise</b>	<b>Water Distribution System Enhancements</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>Water Sewer Borrowing</b>
This would provide funds to repair structural and capacity deficiencies in the water distribution system. Examples of work would include water main repairs, fire hydrant replacement, and other infrastructure improvements to maintain the distribution system. The result of this work would increase the structural integrity of the Town's water system.			
<b>Water Sewer Enterprise</b>	<b>Capt Tom's Booster Pump (Engineering)</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>Retained Earnings</b>
The Town owns and operates a water booster station for the Lamplight development off Hartford Street. The booster station equipment is in need of replacement due to previous flooding that damaged certain equipment. The existing station is located underground and the water department's preference is to install an aboveground station for safer access during operation and maintenance procedures. The present location of the station, in an improved lawn area, may not be conducive to an aboveground station. The 1st phase of funding will provide for preliminary design work to identify an appropriate site and provide a cost estimate for the replacement project.			
<b>Water Sewer Enterprise</b>	<b>Replace Water Treatment Plant Stand-by Generators (Engineering)</b>	<b>\$ 10,500</b>	<b>Retained Earnings</b>
This project will include preliminary engineering to develop a project scope and cost estimate for the replacement of the two emergency power generators located at the Springvale Water Treatment Plant. The generators provide power to the Springvale Water Treatment Plant and water supply wells during power outages. There are two generators located inside a garage; one is 500 kw and one is 250kw. The 500kw provides power to the five high lift pumps and the high lift pump building. The 250kw provides power to the water supply pump station buildings and the two water treatment plant buildings. The 250kw unit was installed in the early 90's and the 500kw was installed in 1995. This phase will evaluate engine/generator set types and available install locations (interior vs exterior). The preliminary engineering will identify building modifications for generators installed inside the garage to provide the required airflow.			
<b>Water Sewer Enterprise</b>	<b>Sewer Collection System Repairs &amp; Maint</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>I&amp;I Stabilization</b>
This would provide funds to repair structural deficiencies in the sewer collection system. Examples of work would include sewer main relining, sewer main cleaning and video inspection, manhole sealing, and manhole cover replacement. The result of this work would increase the structural integrity of the Town's sewer system and eliminate inflow and infiltration.			



**ARTICLE 15**  
**West Natick Fire Station Appropriation of Funding**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen to design, develop, construct, furnish, and equip a new West Natick Fire Station (Fire Station #4), currently located at 268 Speen Street, Natick, Massachusetts, 01760, including all related facilities, buildings, appurtenant structures, site improvements, and grounds; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To appropriate funding for the West Natick Fire Station project covering the costs to design, develop, construct, furnish and equip a new West Natick Fire Station (Station #4).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 15	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	August 30, 2018	Favorable Action	12-0-0

**MOTION: (Requires a 2/3 majority vote)**

Move that the Town of Natick vote to appropriate the sum of \$15,560,000 for the purpose of paying costs to design, develop, construct, furnish and equip a new West Natick Fire Station (Fire station #4), located at the site of the current Fire Station #4 and adjoining Town owned properties, including all related facilities, buildings, appurtenant structures, site improvements, and grounds, said sum to be expended under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, and to meet said appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 1/2). Any premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied

to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:


The Finance Committee took testimony, asked questions and gathered information on the proposed motion and borrowing appropriation request. Specific questions asked and answered included:

- A member asked what the “Plan B” is, if the voters decide not to vote for the debt exclusion for this project?
  - It was stated by Town Administration that there is no ability to fund these projects within the Natick town budget, and that a hybrid funding model that consisted of some money from capital stabilization sum from free cash and some from bonds borrowing was no longer being considered because there are a number of projects that need to be funded from capital stabilization and free cash.
- A member questioned how the estimated project cost was calculated and saw that project cost was initially \$7 million (2007) and is now \$15 million. Does it include higher construction cost and an expanded scope of the functionality of West Natick fire station?
  - Town Administration acknowledged there was an escalation in the budget for the project through a combination of both those items- driven by project scope and anticipated construction costs. It was noted by Town Administration that projects estimated by the town recently have seen very large escalation of construction costs, so the sooner the Town does this project, the better.

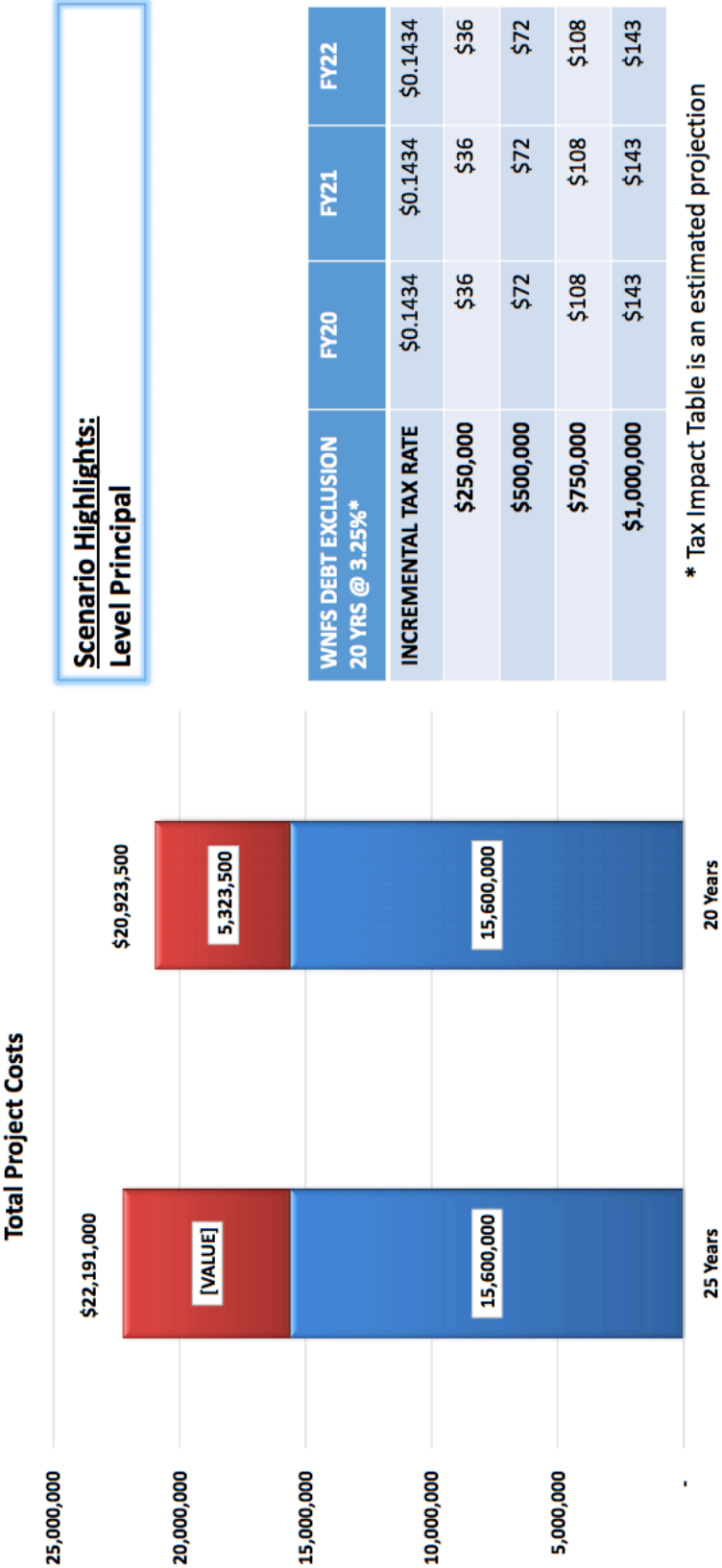
### Comments in Debate

- This project is about as important a project as any being completed in the community. Nearly 50% of the emergency calls handled in this community are handled by Station 4. The increased density of the buildings (office, retail, or commercial) served by the West Natick Fire Station necessitates the building of this fire station.
- For the West Natick Fire Station project, the choice is whether you reduce the scope of the project to save money or whether you take a longer-term view and get a fire station that meets the needs of the community now and well into the future. For the West Natick Fire Station we’re making the right decision by taking the long-term view so that we have facilities that will serve us well into the future.

- It was noted that the West Natick fire station will serve the entirety of the Natick community – it's a town-wide fire station that happens to be located in West Natick.
- Relative to our peers in other communities, we have a relatively low tax rate, due primarily to the strong commercial and retail environment in Natick to contribute a significant amount of tax taxes to the town, without putting any children into our schools. They really ask only two things – good roads and responsive police and fire services. We are servicing 2018 Natick with a 1950s era fire station – this investment will pay off for the town.
- The Finance Committee is clearly stating that through the committee discussion and debate on this article, a majority of the Finance Committee is supporting debt exclusion for the project.

	<b>Debt Service</b>				
	<b>Project:</b> West Natick Fire Station				
	<b>Total Cost:</b>		\$15,600,000		
	<b>Offsetting Funds:</b>		\$(7,800,000)		
	<b>Cost to be Issued:</b>		\$ 7,800,000		
	<b>Term:</b>		20 Years		
	<b>Interest</b>		\$ 2,929,506 3.25%		
	<b>Starting Year</b>		FY 2020		\$ 10,729,506
<b>Beg Bal</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Principal</b>	<b>Interest</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>End Bal</b>
\$ 7,800,000	2020	\$ 282,975	\$ 253,500	\$ 536,475	\$ 7,517,025
\$ 7,517,025	2021	\$ 292,172	\$ 244,303	\$ 536,475	\$ 7,224,853
\$ 7,224,853	2022	\$ 301,668	\$ 234,808	\$ 536,475	\$ 6,923,185
\$ 6,923,185	2023	\$ 311,472	\$ 225,004	\$ 536,475	\$ 6,611,713
\$ 6,611,713	2024	\$ 321,595	\$ 214,881	\$ 536,475	\$ 6,290,119
\$ 6,290,119	2025	\$ 332,046	\$ 204,429	\$ 536,475	\$ 5,958,072
\$ 5,958,072	2026	\$ 342,838	\$ 193,637	\$ 536,475	\$ 5,615,234
\$ 5,615,234	2027	\$ 353,980	\$ 182,495	\$ 536,475	\$ 5,261,254
\$ 5,261,254	2028	\$ 365,485	\$ 170,991	\$ 536,475	\$ 4,895,770
\$ 4,895,770	2029	\$ 377,363	\$ 159,113	\$ 536,475	\$ 4,518,407
\$ 4,518,407	2030	\$ 389,627	\$ 146,848	\$ 536,475	\$ 4,128,780
\$ 4,128,780	2031	\$ 402,290	\$ 134,185	\$ 536,475	\$ 3,726,490
\$ 3,726,490	2032	\$ 415,364	\$ 121,111	\$ 536,475	\$ 3,311,125
\$ 3,311,125	2033	\$ 428,864	\$ 107,612	\$ 536,475	\$ 2,882,262
\$ 2,882,262	2034	\$ 442,802	\$ 93,674	\$ 536,475	\$ 2,439,460
\$ 2,439,460	2035	\$ 457,193	\$ 79,282	\$ 536,475	\$ 1,982,267
\$ 1,982,267	2036	\$ 472,052	\$ 64,424	\$ 536,475	\$ 1,510,216
\$ 1,510,216	2037	\$ 487,393	\$ 49,082	\$ 536,475	\$ 1,022,822
\$ 1,022,822	2038	\$ 503,234	\$ 33,242	\$ 536,475	\$ 519,589
\$ 519,589	2039	\$ 519,589	\$ 16,887	\$ 536,475	\$ (0)

# West Natick Fire Station Financing – Debt Exclusion



**ARTICLE 16**  
**West Natick Fire Station Land Acquisition**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise, land needed for the construction of the West Natick Fire Station which land is located on the southerly side of Worcester Street, Route 9, and is shown on a plan a copy of which is on file in the Community Development Office; and further, to see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for the purposes of this article; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

This Article seeks authorization and funding for the taking, of a small piece of property, by the town of Natick, for which said piece of land is necessary to complete the land swap for the West Natick Fire Station.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #16	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 13, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

**MOTION: (Requires a majority vote)**

**Move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, taking by eminent domain or otherwise, fee simple, easements, or other interest in a certain parcel of land, for general municipal purposes, including without limitation for the site of West Natick Fire Station, which land is located on the southerly side of Worcester Street, Route 9, and is noted in red markings, shown on a plan entitled “West Natick Fire Station Project, Land Acquisition and Disposition Plan, in Natick, MA,” dated November 30, 2017, prepared by Whitman & Bingham Associates, LLC, a copy of which is on file in the Community Development Office; and that \$1,000.00 be appropriated, from Free Cash, under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, to fund the acquisition and legal, appraisal, and other related costs associated with obtaining this interest in land and to take all action necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes of this article.**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

This Article seeks authorization and funding for the taking, of a small piece of property, by the town of Natick, for which said piece of land is necessary to complete the land swap for the West Natick Fire Station. The taking is to remedy the “questionable” ownership of said piece of land which was recently discovered not to be owned by either the town or the abutting parcel owner.

The assessed value of this property is approximately \$475. Should someone come out of the woodwork and claimed that they own this tiny sliver of property this would likely be the Town’s monetary exposure for the land.

In the process of formalizing the land swap, the Town may have to have two recordings of land with the Registrar of Deeds (land records). Therefore, the amount in the motion is \$1000 to ensure that town can implement this in a timely manner.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 17**  
**Change Authority for Acquisition of 22 Pleasant Street Among Other Items**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what action(s) the Town will take, under MGL Chapter 45 Section 14, or any other authority, either a) to create a committee appointed by the Moderator or b) to use one of the methods specified in MGL Chapter 45, including, without limitation, section 14 of MGL Chapter 45, and/or c) to authorize the Conservation Commission under MGL Chapter 40 including, without limitation, section 8 – c to negotiate for and to acquire the property known as 22 Pleasant Street, alternatively known as Map 64 Parcel 44, in Natick for park and playground purposes and/or conservation and/or passive recreation purposes as the case may be including without limitation:

- 1) a) to create such committee appointed by the Moderator as an action of Town Meeting and/or to amend the Town ByLaws to create and to empower such committee or commission and specify their powers and duties and or b) to create within the scope of MGL Ch 45 including, without limitation, section 14 a committee or commission and to provide for their appointment by elected officers or elected multiple member bodies, and c) to allow any committee or commission access to the services of Town counsel and town staff; and/or
- 2) to set the number, qualifications and terms of members of such committee or commission; and/or
- 3) to change the previous votes of town Meeting under Article 35 of Spring 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 29 of Spring 2016 Town Meeting, or any other previous warrant article and vote of Town Meeting in order, without limitation, to change the authority to negotiate from the Board of Selectmen to such new committee or commission or to elected parks commissioners or the Conservation Commission, to transfer the control over and the authority to expend funds under any and all existing appropriation authority from the Board of Selectmen to such committee of commission or the Conservation Commission, provided, however, that neither any existing appropriation nor any existing borrowing authorization nor the eminent domain authorization nor grant application nor grant application authorizations may be rescinded or reduced in any way under this warrant article; and/or
- 4) to see what additional sums of money the town may raise, transfer from available funds, appropriate and or authorize or raise from borrowing to accomplish the purposes of the acquisition of 22 Pleasant St. and /or to authorize acquisition of the fee interest in the property, a long term renewable ground lease whether rent paid over time of all up front in lump sum or an exclusive perpetual easement for the use of 22 Pleasant St. ; and/or
- 5) to change the condition or conditions of any of the previous votes of Town Meeting referenced in 3) above in order to change the purpose of those previous appropriations and votes to be consistent with this article, to remove the conditions in any of those previous

votes concerning letters of intent or any other matters, and/or to modify such conditions consistent with accomplishing the purposes of this article; and/or

- 6) to provide that whatever new committee of commission or the Conservation Commission is authorized under this article will also have access to Town Counsel and Town staff for the purposes of negotiating for and acquiring 22 Pleasant St.; and/or

or otherwise act thereon.

## PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:

The intent of this motion is to execute the will of Town Meeting – twice expressed, but not completed after two years – to complete negotiations and successfully execute a Purchase & Sale Agreement in order to acquire the property at 22 Pleasant Street.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #17	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 20, 2018	Referral to Sponsor & Board of Selectmen	14-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move Referral to the Sponsor and Board of Selectmen**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

The committee heard a presentation from the sponsor supporting the rationale behind the article and the sponsor's proposed motion. In part the sponsor stated:

- The sponsor's and proponents want the will of Town Meeting, as twice confirmed at 2015 Spring Town Meeting (Article 35) and 2016 Spring Town Meeting (article 29), to be fulfilled



- Based on actions to date, the BOS, has not fulfilled the actions taken by Town Meeting. This apparent inaction should be of concern to all Town Meeting members
- The sponsor noted that the BOS voted to hire two specialists to assist in their efforts to acquire this property
- The process has taken far too long to be executed – there may be legitimate reasons for this, but as citizens, it is unclear to us. As a Town Meeting member, it's unclear to me how this vote of the legislative body hasn't been implemented, nor has there been any communication to Town Meeting as to why it has not been carried out., nor recommendations they have to get the job done
- The sponsors propose that Town Meeting have the Moderator create the 22 Pleasant Street Acquisition Committee to assume the role given to the BOS was not made lightly. The sponsors recognize that this is a legal, but unorthodox approach. That is to say the approach is unorthodox, but legal under state law (MGL, c, 45, § 14).

During the Finance Committee public hearing the committee asked questions, took testimony, and gathered information:

The Chair confirmed with the Chair of the Selectmen that the 22 Pleasant St. acquisition is still in executive session with the Board of Selectmen.

- It was asked how many executive sessions have had 22 Pleasant St. on the agenda?
- The BOS Chair could not provide an exact number, but believed that the Board of Selectmen hadn't talked about any other topic more than 22 Pleasant St. during the last year.

In a rebuttal statement the BOS Chair stated the Board would challenge the assertion of no action:

- The BOS brought a warrant article back to 2017 Fall Town Meeting to get further direction to proceed.
- No reportable activity is not reflective of inactivity on the part of the board of selectmen.
- The restrictions placed on the Board of Selectmen by Town Meeting to pursue this acquisition is, in part, why there has been limited activity to date. The BOS are following the guidance of Town Meeting which were the purchase price and a deliverable state.
- There are two parties to the negotiation and the fault does not lie with the board of selectmen as there has been a consistent good faith effort to complete this acquisition.
  - A new dynamic is the change in ownership and with that, additional complexity.
  - It was suggested to this committee that changing the negotiating body at this point would be detrimental to progress.
- The board takes this responsibility very seriously.

Questions from the members and answers from the sponsor or others included:

- If the proposed committee would be bound by the purchase price authorized by Town Meeting?
  - Sponsor confirmed it would be bound by the purchase price
- The motion says that "the Committee shall be responsible for determining what additional sums of money the Town may raise, transfer from available funds, appropriate and authorize or raise from borrowing to accomplish the purposes of acquisition of 22 Pleasant Street...". Wouldn't this conflict with the way that Town Meeting budgets and allocate funds in the town?

- Sponsor indicated that the Committee would need to work in concert with the Board of Selectmen to determine how to fund the acquisition
- It was offered by a committee member that there was a question as to whether the motion, as written, implies that the Committee would be authorized to raise funds, etc. to make the acquisition.
- It was asked whether the sponsor knew if there were any private interest that might compete with the town and the acquisition of this property?
  - Sponsor indicated that he was not specifically aware of any other interests, but the property owner has put the property up for lease again, which is one of the reasons we're bringing it to the board of selectmen's attention.
- A question to the BOS Chair asked whether the issues slowing down the acquisition were legal or economic?
  - It was stated that the complexity of negotiations has been due to the need to deliver an environmentally clean site.
- In acknowledging the frustration, the delay has caused, what would the formation of a committee do to help?
  - Sponsor said that the answers the Finance committee received tonight was far more than then we as individual citizens have been able to obtain.
  - At each Board of Selectmen meeting, we requested a progress report and were told that it couldn't be discussed because it was in executive session.
  - The actions that occurred (hiring counsel and Licensed Site Professional) took place after the warrant article was submitted.
- It was asked whether the authorization for acquisition was for park and/or recreation purposes, and/or conservation and/or passive recreation?
  - The sponsor said that he thought open space was part of the list, but could not recall specifics of the authorization.

## Debate

Members offered the following key points in support of the Referral recommendation:

- Appreciation of the sponsor coming forward with this article and understand the frustration and impatience of the sponsor and the reasonableness of moving forward with this acquisition. The representation suggested in this motion does feel loose and the financial language seems to overreach. The presence of the chair of the Board of Selectmen at this meeting is a sign of the good faith effort that the Board of Selectmen intends to make. I'm hoping that referral will result in this not coming back before this committee because progress will have been made.
- Another member stated that while the member had differences with the Board of Selectmen on this project, he isn't willing to usurp their authority. The guidelines that Town Meeting gave the board of selectmen were very set - a certain amount of money and clean environmental condition.

- A third member indicated that while the submission of this article may have served as the impetus to get things moving the member also want to commend the Board of Selectmen for persevering because this has had an intransigent owner who would not budge at all. The environmental cleanup issues are of paramount concern.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 18**  
**Appropriate Funds for the Design and Development of Route 27 North Main Street**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what sum of money the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds or otherwise provide for design and development of the Route 27 North Main Street (Route 27) roadway improvement project, including but not limited to design, right of way (design and/or acquisition), legal, appraisal, permitting, and/or construction phase services; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To support the continued design and eventual reconstruction of Route 27 North Main Street from North Avenue to the Wayland Town Line – excluding the Rt. 9 and Rt 27 interchange.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #18	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 13, 2018	Favorable Action	9-0-0

**MOTION: (Requires a 2/3 majority vote)**

**Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$2,000,000 to be expended under the direction of the Community and Economic Development Department for the purpose of Route 27 North Main Street design and development including; design, engineering, easement acquisition, right of way acquisition, and legal costs associated with this project, and that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow \$2,000,000 under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, as amended, or any other enabling authority and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefore aggregating not more than \$2,000,000 in principal amount and that the Town Administrator with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any action necessary to carry out this program, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of**

**the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.**

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

This project has been in front of Town Meeting in spring 2018. Natick is partnering with the Mass. DOT who is contributing in excess of \$12 million to this project. However, the town must complete certain activities prior to the commencement of this project. The \$2 million appropriated is to primarily complete easement acquisition, right of way acquisition, and legal costs, as well as some design and engineering for this project. This requested appropriation would be expended between November 2018 and June 30, 2019. Subsequently, Mass. DOT would go out to bid for this project construction.

More details and information on what the \$2 million would be spent on, include:

- The project is currently programmed on the Boston Metropolitan Area Planning Organization's (MPO), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  - Construction funding in **Federal FY 2019** (starting October 1, 2018)
  - Anticipated project advertisement (bid) date of July 2019
  - Likely construction start in the Spring 2020.
- In order to meet this target bid date, the Town must have all Right of Way, Design, and other work completed by May 2019.
- "What's included in the North Main Street project are:
  - New/upgraded bike lanes, sidewalks, crosswalks
  - New signalization and/or roadway geometry improvements at key intersections (Lake Street, Bacon Street, Pine Street, and others)
  - Improved drainage and utility infrastructure

(Continued on Next Page)

Anticipated program expenditures are provided in the table below:

Design & Right of Way (ROW) Costs January 2018 – September 2019  
(Updated Sept 2018)

Schedule of funds	Anticipated Spend Date	Task	Cost Spring 2018	Cost Fall 2018	Spent to date	Available Funds	Remaining need
<b>2018 Spring TM</b>	Ongoing	Appraisals	\$220,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$220,000	\$ -
	Ongoing	ROW Legal Docs	\$65,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$65,000	\$ -
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$285,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$285,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>2018 Fall TM</b>	Ongoing	Full Design	\$882,000	\$1,095,000	\$600,000	\$45,000	\$450,000
	Spring 2019	ROW Acquisition	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,300,000
	Completed	Field Invest.	\$ -	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$ -	\$ -
	Fall 2018-2019	Legal Costs	\$ -	\$250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$250,000
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,182,000</b>	<b>\$2,675,000</b>	<b>\$630,000</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Future TM</b>	Spring 2020	Const. Oversight	\$ -	\$250,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$250,000
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
NOTE: The ROW Acquisition cost is a placeholder. Costs could be higher or lower depending on appraisal results.							

Spring Annual Town Meeting appropriated 220,000 for the appraisals:

- The Town just received a response to that appraiser RFP and expect to have the appraiser onboard shortly.
- Based on the anticipated appraisal reports for those 200 or so properties where it's expected the Town will need to have temporary and permanent easements or in very few cases, fee-simple acquisition.
- The \$1.3 million is the projected value of those items.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 19**  
**Capital Equipment (Schools)**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and raise, borrow or otherwise provide, a sum of money as may be required for capital equipment for the various departments of the Town of Natick; to determine whether this appropriation shall be raised by borrowing or otherwise act thereon.

*Emergency Generator – Memorial Elementary School - \$25,000*

*Natick High School Athletic Field Bleacher Repairs - \$20,000*

*ADA Accessibility Wheelchair Ramp – Auditorium – Johnson Elementary School - \$10,000*

*Total = \$55,000*

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

The School Department is seeking funding to support three capital projects that were determined to be priorities to the School Department and had not previously been on the Five (5) Year Capital Plan for the Town.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 19	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 6, 2018	No Action	10-0-0

**MOTION: (Requires a majority vote)**

**Move No Action**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

The Interim Superintendent of Schools requested a recommendation of "No Action".

This No Action request has two drivers:

1. The school department and the municipal side are continuing to talk about the listed projects, determining total costs, order or priority of need in relation to the total capital equipment and capital improvement programs. Any one or more of the three items listed in the scope of article 19 may find its way onto the list under articles 13 & 14.
2. Two of the items listed in article 19- repairing the bleachers and building an ADA accessible ramp, are not capital equipment items but rather, capital improvement items and therefore are not in the scope of the article; the amount necessary to repair or refurbish or replace the generator is likely to be much greater than the \$25,000 listed in the article; seeking a higher amount would be out of scope of the article language and therefore is impractical to seek partial funding under this article.



**ARTICLE 20**  
**Legal Settlement**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or otherwise provide, the funds necessary to implement the Terms of a Legal Settlement Agreement/litigation outcomes between the Natick Public Schools and pending litigation regarding cases currently before the Massachusetts Court System/Massachusetts Arbitration System.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To provide funding in relationship to an ongoing legal settlement agreement that due to the age of the settlement was not covered by liability insurance.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 20	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 6, 2018	Favorable Action	8-0-1

**MOTION: (Requires a majority vote)**

**Move that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$350,000 for the purpose of implementing and paying the Terms of a Legal Settlement Agreement between the Natick Public Schools and pending arbitration regarding a case currently before the Massachusetts Court System, said funds to be expended under the direction of the Natick School Committee, with the source of funding to be Free Cash.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

Dr. Nolin explained that this particular settlement comes during that time where we are confronting several different legal challenges in the district. NPS is expending the current legal budget to address those legal activities. The \$350,000 settlement, that this proposed funding

supports, has been five years in the making. The nature of the legal issue. Can't be discussed publicly as the Interim Superintendent is bound by confidentiality.

The insurance plan that might have covered this type of case for the town was not purchased at the time. The last time the policy was renewed, the former Superintendent did not include the arbitration rider. This has since been corrected in our insurance.

Failure to fund this settlement will require the school district to find existing funds within its current general fund appropriation and will severely impact the effective delivery of education in the district.

The school district would be faced with finding the funds from its current operating budget. Due to the scope and magnitude of the settlement the school district would be faced with severely curtailing educational opportunities within the current school year up to and including the layoff of several educators across the school district, reduction of all professional development, purchase of replacement capital items and instructional materials needed to keep pace with enrollment and replacement cycles.

Finance Committee members asked questions and gathered additional information including:

- Whether the timing of this settlement would require payment approval from fall Town Meeting or whether it might be deferred to the Spring.
  - NPS will know within a couple of weeks when this settlement is likely to occur; if not before the conclusion of 2018 FATM, NPS will request "No Action" and push it out to Spring 2019.
- Is the arbitration settlement is the last anticipated step?
  - It is the last phase.
- Is NPS confident in the not-to-exceed \$350,000 figure.
  - The interim Superintendent is very confident that that figure adequate.
- What would happen to any unexpended balance – would it be returned to the town's general fund?
  - Yes, it would be returned the town. This amount is to be expended under the supervision of the School Committee through the School Superintendent and specifies that this may only be spent on this settlement.
- Is this in binding arbitration?
  - The parties are in negotiations to avoid going to binding arbitration.
- Does the arbitration have confidentiality agreements on both sides?
  - It was confirmed that both sides must agree to a confidential settlement.
- Have all legal fees during this five-year period had been paid and that NPS is not looking at a significant legal bill on top of this settlement?

- The interim Superintendent said that one of the benefits to the settlement is that we don't move forward with legal proceedings and incur additional legal fees.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 25**  
**Amend Agreement with the South Middlesex Regional Vocational School District**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend the agreement among the towns of Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick and the City of Framingham with respect to Establishment of a Regional Vocational School District to incorporate prior amendments to said agreement, to eliminate outdated provisions, to recognize Framingham's change from a town to a city form of government, and to bring said agreement into alignment with the District's existing practices, in accordance with an April 23, 2018 executive summary, a copy of which is on file with the office of the Town Administrator; or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

For the towns of Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton and Natick and the City of Framingham to accept the changes to the Establishment of a Regional Vocational School District agreement.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #12	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	August 30, 2018	No Action	12-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move No Action**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION &  
DISCUSSION:**

While the Superintendent of Keefe Tech and Natick's Town Administration are ready to move forward, but Keefe Tech's council had concerns that not all towns were ready for this change so they requested No Action so that it could get all of the towns on board in the spring. This will not affect Keefe Tech's ability to operate.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 27**  
**Prohibit Dog Kennels in Single Family Residential Zones RS and/or RG**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the town will vote to:

1. Prohibit dog kennels in single family residential zones RS and/or RG.
2. Change Natick by-laws section III-A-2 Use Regulations, Other Uses, item 53 where a Dog Kennel may be allowed by special permit to reflect the prohibition of Dog Kennels in the RS and/or RG zones; i.e. replace “A” with an “O”

or take any other action with respect thereto.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To limit “dog kennels” (Use 53) from all residential zones (current prohibited in RM but allowed by special permit in RG and RS).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #27	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 20, 2018	Referral to the Sponsor and Planning Board	13-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move Referral to the Sponsor and Planning Board.**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

The sponsor provided the following overview to the committee.

Unfortunately, the Town's current dog kennels definition doesn't discriminate between a commercial kennel and a residence that has more than three dogs. The definition of kennel is more than three dogs on a single premise. The way the bylaw is currently written allows kennels in RG and RS zones, but not RM zones. We wanted to bring this discussion to Town Meeting to determine whether these kennels should be permitted in these zones. The way the bylaw is currently written allows kennels in RG and RS zones, but not RM zones.

Committee members asked questions and gathered information from the sponsors including the following:

- Please clarify what kennel is defined as under this bylaw – is it a structure, a usage?
  - The definition of *dog kennel* in the bylaw is “One pack or collection of dogs on a single premises, whether maintained for breeding, boarding, sale, training, hunting or other purposes and including any shop where dogs are on sale, and also including every pack or collection of more than three dogs three months old, or over, owned or kept by a person on a single premises irrespective of the purpose for which they are maintained.”
- Would this bylaw change put any limits on dog licenses per household? If you had three dogs and got a fourth dog, would you be considered a kennel?
  - According to the current bylaw, you would be considered a kennel and would require a special permit. This proposed motion would eliminate that issue.
- What are other towns in the area doing?
  - Six surrounding towns have found a way to deal with these commercial kennels, which for those towns, are not allowed in residential areas.
- What does the term “kept” and what that meant in terms of boarding? Also, how would this affect dog walkers? Does “kept” mean “kept under control” or boarding?
  - “Kept” would be dogs that were housed at that location at least overnight, or longer.

### Public Comments

Three residents spoke to the subject-matter of this proposed motions. Two are neighbors of a specific dog “daycare” located in a residential zone and spoke in favor of this proposed motion. The third resident spoke against the proposed motion suggesting that the language defining a “kennel” may create other limits that impact dog-walkers, dog sitters and so on.

### Debate

- Members expressed their understanding of the frustration of the makers of the article given their situation, but the feeling is that it's just not ready yet. The article, as crafted, says that a resident cannot have more than four dogs in their house or they are considered a commercial kennel.

- Feeling this is a definition problem in that the Planning Board's hands were tied by the definition of kennel. We need to define them and figure out what restrictions we place on them and that needs to be worked out.
- The way this motion is written would fix the problem that specific residents have. But a motion being this restrictive isn't appropriate.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 29**  
**Amend Article 2 of the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to amend Article 2 of the Town of Natick Home Rule Charter as follows:

In Section 2-11 (b) delete item (3) which reads “any ten voters” and insert in its place “(3) any ten or more registered voters of the town for any annual town meeting and any one hundred or more registered voters for any special town meeting in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 10,” so that the section shall read:

“(b) Initiation of Articles - The Board of Selectmen shall receive all petitions which are addressed to it and which request the submission of particular subject matter to the representative town meeting and which are filed by: (1) any elected town officer, (2) any multiple member body, acting by a majority of its members, (3) any ten or more registered voters of the town for any annual town meeting and any one hundred or more registered voters of the town for any special town meeting as detailed in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 39, Section 10, (4) such other persons or agencies as may be authorized by law, or by by-law. All such requests for submission of matters shall be in writing, but they shall not be required to conform to any particular style or form. The board of selectmen shall within fourteen days of receipt of a proposed zoning by-law amendment submit the same to the planning board for review.”

or otherwise act thereon

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To change the required number of registered voter signatures for Special Town Meeting warrants to one hundred (100) from ten (10).

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #29	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 13, 2018	No Recommendation	NA

Two motions were made and seconded- Indefinite Postponement (Voted 2 –7 –0) and Favorable Action. (Voted 7 – 2 – 0). Because neither motion received the required quantum of an eight-vote majority of the 15-member committee, neither motion carried.



MOTION: (Requires a majority vote)

### **No Recommendation**

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

It was noted during the information gathering and Q&A that:

- M.G.L. c. 39 § 10, it limits a town requiring no more than 100 voter signatures to request an Article on a special Town Meeting.
- Because the town is silent on that requirement for putting an Article on a special Town Meeting, we default to the 10 voter signatures specified in state law.

Member questions and sponsor replies included:

- Why are we pushing it to 100 when, for example, you only need 25 signatures to get on the town-wide ballot?
  - BOS discussed this number and decided to be consistent with the maximum number that the state allowed.
  - Given the time sensitivity when special Town Meetings are called, and that Natick has a full spring and fall Town Meeting, and the period to submit warrant Articles is open for a sizable amount of time, the BOS opted to keep special Town Meetings for special, time-critical items and putting the threshold at 100 citizens would decrease the chance of having special Town Meetings that weren't time-sensitive.

### Debate

Members expressed their opinions on this proposal as follows:

- A member stated that she finds this Article insulting. Special Town Meeting #2 is not time-sensitive. Neither was at least one of the Cochituate Rail Trail special Town Meetings. We've had two special Town Meetings for at least the past two years. Some of the specials were required to correct errors made by committees and boards in town. When you can run for town wide office with 25 voter signatures, I think 100 voters is a ridiculous number to have as the requirement to call a special Town Meeting. I agree that it should probably be higher than 10 voters but I don't think it should be as high as 100. Some of the Articles on recent special Town Meetings sponsored by citizens were time-sensitive, for example, when the abutters objected to a local business car detailing operation to be located on Tech Circle, put a warrant Article on a Special Town Meeting. It would be onerous for them to require 100 signatures to put that article on a special Town Meeting.
- A second member agreed with Ms. Collins' points about the number required voters and felt this was a solution searching for a problem.
- A third member that those of us who are Town Meeting members know how arduous it is to go through so many warrant Articles only to be following by a special Town Meeting I feel strongly that when you

have any multi-member body able to sponsor a warrant Article, where putting up a higher barrier for our citizens and that is not right.

- A different member noted that when thinking about some of the streets in town, there aren't 100 voters on a given street, so this threshold seems high.
- A member offered that the proposed charter change doesn't preclude a citizen from submitting an Article to either the spring or fall Town Meeting or raising an issue or concern with the BOS or a town committee and getting a warrant Article put on a Special Town Meeting. One of the things mentioned earlier was the calling of special Town Meetings when it wasn't time sensitive. With the present threshold of 10 voters I see the potential of citizens pushing their pet projects to request a special Town Meeting. The fact that 19 out of 20 communities surveyed require 100 voters is compelling for me.
- Finally, another member, supports this because many of the citizen petitions that come before Town Meeting under any warrant are proposed zoning changes that affect the entire town. Not having a high bar to get over for proposing changes to Zoning By-Laws means that the entire town is potentially impacted by a few citizens signing a petition.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 30**  
**Amend Town of Natick Zoning Map: Assisted Living Overlay Option Plan**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the town will vote to amend the Town of Natick Zoning Map as follows: By including an “Assisted Living Overlay Option Plan” overlay district on the land known as 89 Union Street, also known as Assessors parcel: Map 53, Parcel 32

Or take any other action relative thereto.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To place a certain parcel of land into the Assisted Living Overlay Option Plan.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
#30	September 13, 2018	Referral to Sponsor and Planning Board	13-0-0

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move Referral to Sponsor and Planning Board**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:**

The sponsor of this article requested Town Meeting refer this article to the sponsor and the Planning Board to preserve their right to re-file this article at a later date, when all parties have more time to properly vet the proposal.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 33**  
**Establish Study Committee: 1.5% Test of Land Use**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see whether the Town will vote to establish a study committee of Town Meeting, appointed by the Moderator, to address, research, study, analyze and recommend regarding the issue and question of where the Town stands relative to and whether the Town has met and/or can meet its obligation under the so-called “1.5% test” of land use as defined and more specifically described in MGL c.40B §§ 20-23, 760 CMR 56 and/or related guidelines issued by DHCD or any office of the Commonwealth or established in any legal proceeding; and, without limitation:

- 1) To establish the number and/or qualifications of committee members to be appointed;
- 2) To establish the charge of said committee including, but not limited to:
  - Identify any and all components of the calculation and all individual parcels or acreage owned by the United States; the Commonwealth; or any political subdivision thereof; the Department of Conservation and Recreation or any state public authority; or where all residential, commercial, and industrial development has been prohibited by deed, decree, zoning or restrictive order of the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to M.G.L. c. 131, § 40A; or is dedicated to conservation or open space whether under control or ownership by trusts, corporations, partnerships, private parties, or otherwise; or is contained in the Subsidized Housing Inventory; and the size of all bodies of water located within Natick;
  - Gather any other information necessary to analyze, evaluate, and calculate the Town’s position relative to the 1.5% test;
  - Identify and recommend any zoning changes or other actions that might strengthen or improve the Town’s position relative to meeting or exceeding this test;
  - Report its findings and recommendations to 2019 Fall Annual Town Meeting or such other date as Town Meeting shall establish provided, however, that this shall not preclude any preliminary or earlier report(s) to Town boards, committees, commissions, or to Town Meeting;
- 3) To authorize said committee to develop a database of properties to be included in and/or excluded from either the numerator or the denominator of the calculation;
- 4) To provide that said committee shall have access to Town Counsel and to Town staff, including but not limited to the Community and Economic Development, DPW (GIS), and Finance (Assessors) divisions and may utilize the services of outside consultants;

- 5) To provide for a method to engage any such outside consultant including, without limitation, a reserve fund transfer by the Finance Committee;
  - 6) To see what sum of money the Town will appropriate to accomplish the purpose of said committee;
  - 7) To set the term of said study committee to expire upon the dissolution of 2019 Fall Annual Town Meeting or such other date as Town Meeting shall establish unless otherwise extended by Town Meeting;
  - 8) Said committee, being a multiple member body under the Town Charter, is authorized to sponsor warrant articles for any Annual or Special Town Meeting Warrant;
- or otherwise act thereon.

#### PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:

At present The Town of Natick does not definitively know what its size by land area is. Importantly, the component parts, by zoned use, are even less accurately known due to the vagaries of lakes, river, and wetlands and actual area of land available further reduced by conservation restrictions as well as ownership by federal, state, and municipal entities. Knowledge of the size of these component parts is fundamental to being able to concretely consider Land-Use, zoning, and economic development. The specific current need for this knowledge is to understand whether (and by how much) Natick may exceed the 1.5% land area test for Chapter 40B safe-harbor status.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE 33	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 11, 2018	Favorable Action	10-0-1

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**Move to establish a study committee of Town Meeting, appointed by the Moderator, to address, research, study, analyze and recommend regarding the issue and question of where the Town stands relative to and whether the Town has met and/or can meet its**

**obligation under the so-called “1.5% test” of land use as defined and more specifically described in MGL c.40B §§ 20-23, 760 CMR 56 and/or related guidelines issued by DHCD or any office of the Commonwealth or established in any legal proceeding; and, without limitation:**

**To establish the number of committee members as five (5);**

**To establish the charge of said committee including, but not limited to:**

- Identify any and all components of the calculation and all individual parcels or acreage owned by the United States; the Commonwealth; or any political subdivision thereof; the Department of Conservation and Recreation or any state public authority; or where all residential, commercial, and industrial development has been prohibited by deed, decree, zoning or restrictive order of the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to M.G.L. c. 131, § 40A; or is dedicated to conservation or open space whether under control or ownership by trusts, corporations, partnerships, private parties, or otherwise; or is contained in the Subsidized Housing Inventory; and the size of all bodies of water located within Natick;**
- Gather any other information necessary to analyze, evaluate, and calculate the Town’s position relative to the 1.5% test;**
- Identify and recommend any zoning changes or other actions that might strengthen or improve the Town’s position relative to meeting or exceeding this test;**
- Report its findings and recommendations to 2019 Fall Annual Town Meeting or such other date as Town Meeting shall establish provided, however, that this shall not preclude any preliminary or earlier report(s) to Town boards, committees, commissions, or to Town Meeting;**

**To authorize said committee to develop a database of properties to be included in and/or excluded from either the numerator or the denominator of the calculation;**

**To provide that said committee shall have access to Town Counsel and to Town staff, including but not limited to the Community and Economic Development, DPW (GIS), and Finance (Assessors) divisions and may utilize the services of outside consultants;**

**To provide that, in order to engage any such outside consultant, a reserve fund transfer not to exceed \$4,000 may be authorized by the Finance Committee;**

**To set the term of said study committee to expire upon the dissolution of 2019 Fall Annual Town Meeting, unless otherwise extended by Town Meeting;**

**Said committee, being a multiple member body under the Town Charter, is authorized to sponsor warrant articles for any Annual or Special Town Meeting Warrant.**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

The sponsor provided a detailed overview of the proposed motion contemplated under this article.

- Article 33 is a study committee proposal by private citizens that's designed to define Natick's land area.
- The basic premise for a need for this study committee is a lack of fact and agreement in town or state records as to what the gross area of the town is (numbers vary between 15.99 to 16.03 square miles).
  - This is important for a town as built-out as Natick since we're in policy discussions such as whether to expand our industrial base.
  - The most pressing issue is that is an important component of finding out if Natick has satisfied one of the listed criteria for "safe harbor", in c. 40B, the state statute that requires municipalities to create affordable housing per a scheme established by the state, a program that defines it by percentiles of regional income and other tests.
    - By the other major tests of safe harbor, Natick is barely above the minimum percentage of the housing stock that is affordable (10.4%).
    - In recent years, Town Meeting supported Articles that required multi-family or multi-unit housing be created, such as assisted living, 62+ housing and other housing inclusive of c.c. 40R, the Modera/Paperboard project.
    - All those projects require more than 10% affordable housing so Town Meeting has taken on responsibility of keeping the town over 10%.
    - There are many developments that could occur such as subdivisions and duplexes being built on land zoned for two-family where previously it was single-family.
    - There is a possibility the town may dip below 10% in the 2020 census. The town will most likely be exactly on or within one or two units of that 10% percent threshold.
- The importance of establishing whether we have an alternative safe harbor, is critical.

- if we remain in safe harbor the town can address the needs of affordable housing in precisely the way that has been discussed over recent years and not by state formula or state scheme which creates housing below the 80th percentile that offsets what is referred to as “market rate housing” which the state mechanism does not allow communities to do.
- The test of area is the 1.5% test of land. The land area of current affordable housing is the numerator of the equation; the denominator is the land available to be developed.
- If affordable housing takes up 1.5% of the denominator of available land you have met that test.
- It would be a shame, however for us not to understand whether we have a safe harbor in the 1.5% test so we can concentrate our efforts, not on disputing bad c. 40B projects, but concentrating on good projects that address community needs.

During the public hearing information was gathered, questions asked and answered including:

- Please summarize the exclusion categories from the denominator.
  - Exclusions are federally owned land, state owned land, county, municipal owned land, and water (rivers and lakes). Not excluded are true wetlands.
  - Many communities in Massachusetts already zone land as conservation land. That, in and of itself would also be an exclusion. Inclusions for determination may be the land area of roads including Route 9, a state-owned road, for example.
- How are the numbers of affordable multi-unit housing buildings in town that occupy land in condominium or common areas are treated in the numerator?
  - Ten years ago, Natick looked at this formula and approached the state to inquire about this and get guidance on these regulations statute and was told there is nothing in regulations that provides guidance.
  - Recently, the Department of Housing and Community Development came out with regulations in January 2018 that this study committee should be going through. Some items are clear such as you have a c.c. 40B project and the acres that go with it, other items are less clear
- Would this study be more than just fact-finding, but instead is a study committee that corresponds with other bodies to help the town establish boundaries or facts of law that are not clear?
  - Yes, it would lead to that
- It was asked, if we get to 1.5% does that preclude the entire c. 40B, so we can delay c. 40B development just as we get to the 10%.
  - It is different in the way it is applied. The 10% is sort of a bracketed number. Every ten years, there is a census where they take the numbers (different numerator/denominator) of affordable and overall housing in general. Once you get certified at a number over 10%, that's good for the next ten years. If you are below it, but at some point during that ten year period, you go over it that will run you through to the next census. Safe harbor is a snapshot, if a proposal comes in and you are at 9.95%, the town must accept my c. 40B project. The town can do a



snapshot, with an affirmative argument saying at this point in time we are over the 1.5% threshold which can only be said within the 15 day response period. If you have done your homework well ahead of time and have it in hand, this makes it simpler. It is a relatively fixed dataset so if an affordable unit drops off or if the state sells land, you are immediately notified of these changes and could capitalize on them. Once you create the initial study and determine you are in a good place it is just a matter of keeping it updated within 15 days.

- There does not seem to be a clear definition of what constitutes the numerator and denominator. Is it the intention, once this analysis is done, to get approval on this number to find out we are calculating things correctly.
- Yes, the worst case scenario is to run the numbers and get a high level of confidence in the data collected and use the town's best judgment in assessing how we meet the criteria by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). At that point, you wait for a proposal to create an affirmative defense.

#### Debate:

- The case has been amply made that this information has a lot of potential value. We don't know what we will find and may not like all the facts; however, we cannot fix facts we don't like. Some of the facts that can be fixed with full due process have been alluded to by the sponsor and I'm very comfortable that some of our great members in our community have brought forward a valuable proposal.
- The member stated support of this since it was first brought to my attention. If we don't know where we stand, we can never use the information. For example, if we don't know we are at 1.4995% then it's unlikely we make a case we should buy some parcel of land and put it under town ownership that would push us over the top. I want to be clear this does not mean we stop trying to put in affordable housing throughout town. However it will mean if we have two ways of stopping "friendly 40B" This gathers information and makes suggestions for proposing Warrant Articles to Town Meeting possibly to rezone something so it goes from not being excluded in the denominator to being excluded in the denominator requiring we don't have to sit at the beck and call of 40B developers. The town can then make concerted efforts and consideration into developing that next stage typically called workforce housing so our employees and our sons and daughters can stay in this community, however if we are always being whipsawed by developers who are not doing this for the greater good generally, in my experience are providing the affordable housing because it's the only way they can do a big project to make money. Affordable housing is something that should be valued. This town is one of the few who has gone over their 10%. Will it be over the 10% after the 2020 census? I don't know but if we don't calculate this information and have at the ready, maps, digital partial boundaries, and information in electronic format so we can submit it within fifteen days of a hearing being opened. It would take us fifteen days just to figure out who was going to accumulate the information in fifteen days. In my experience study committees in this community have done yeoman's , admitted when they could not because of lack of information or perhaps the town would take it on I do want to take issue with one interpretation I have is we calculate this and blow it it's not submitted to DHCD until

there is an application for a 40B project, it's in the town's files and would know if one of the political sub divisions was going to sell off land in advance of that happening and we could make adjustments. I think we should still endeavor to be over the 10% but we will get to choose how we get to that 10%. I think more information always better and is disappointing to me it's not included in the existing conditions in the Master Plan and the answer seems to be that it's hard, we have to hire a consultant, and no one has succeeded yet. I'm not afraid of being a trailblazer. This should be approved because it's an exercise in doing. If town staff does not believe it's worth doing or have no resources to do it and therefore concerned citizens can add their expertise and time to provide, even if it's only 95% of the data we need it's 95% more than we have today. I resoundingly hope this is approved by Town Meeting and this committee.

- A member indicated being very torn on this one. I recognize the need for the data and baseline information but to me this sounds very much like a Hail Mary type of play. The Community Economic Development Director said that he needs six to twelve months dedicated GIS support. I hope that this data is readily available because as a colleague stated earlier they have a lot on their plate and don't have the bandwidth to do that much more than we are already asking of them. Having said that, a study committee for \$4,000.00 sounds like a reasonable thing to do in order to get that baseline provided we do not have to divulge it if it's bad news. If it is bad news I want to keep it to ourselves and then figure out what to do to remedy that within our tent. I would like to clarify what a friendly 40B is and what that means from a Planning Board perspective. A friendly 40B vs. an unfriendly 40B, if you are below the 10% threshold you have no latitude as a Planning Board to oppose any conditions or modifications to their plans. When a friendly 40B comes along, because you are above the 10% threshold or even close you can impose a lot more conditions and remedial sources activities in terms of traffic, abatement, etc. that the Planning Board goes through. My colleague also talked about the affordable housing stock which is why we pushed for an inclusionary by law that will help us get above that threshold. I've heard testimony of someone who was on the Zoning Board of Appeals expressing reservations about it. For the amount of \$4000.00 I will vote for this but recognize this may be the tip of the iceberg in terms of cost and I'm concerned about that.
- In rebuttal a member stated that they would like to clarify that they understand the Director of Economic Development's reservations. This is the same individual who said that one week of showing up here he knew the Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) had no provision for affordable housing yet never proposed a requirement for affordable housing.

- END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 34**  
**Amend Historic Preservation Zoning By-Law**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what action(s) the town will take to amend the Historic Preservation By Law (Section III-J) so as to increase the amount of new construction allowed on a parcel whether based on the size of the parcel, excessive compliance of the structure and/or lot with underlying zoning requirements, restoration of the structure to its' original state and/or other regulatory requirements,

Or otherwise act thereon.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

The purpose of this motion is to restore the historical integrity and preserve the history of many older homes while at the same time create more housing opportunities for citizens.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #34	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 20, 2018	Favorable Action	12-1-1

**MOTION:** (Requires a 2/3 majority vote)

**Move to amend the Historic Preservation Bylaw Section III-J of the Town of Natick Zoning By Laws by deleting Section III-J(7)(3) in its entirety and replacing it with a new subsection 3 as follows:**

**“3. New construction shall be permitted on an individual basis at the discretion of the Planning Board after taking the following factors into consideration:**

- 1. The square footage and net usable land area of the parcel(s);**
- 2. Compliance of the existing buildings/structures and parcel with underlying zoning requirements;**
- 3. Proposed restoration of the property to its original state- the extent and degree of the proposed restoration/preservation of the historic portion(s) of existing**

**buildings/structures, as well as any proposed replication of previously demolished historic building/structures in order to bring the property/building(s)/structure(s) back to their original state.**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

The sponsors of this article own property at 50 Pleasant Street. It used to be a nursing home and is quite a historic structure. The historic preservation by law they seek to amend was passed by Town Meeting 2-3 years ago.

- The impetus behind that bylaw was the Sacred Heart church property in South Natick is looking for an adaptive reuse. It's zoned residential and only qualified as a single residential home. Given the mass of the church property, the historic preservation bylaw sought to allow townhouses and condos so that the church could be divided into multiple residential units.
- The bylaw was geared toward that specific project and was too restrictive and numbers were worked out that worked well for that particular parcel.
- There are many historic structures in town such as 50 Pleasant Street that demonstrate the one size doesn't fit all and the historic preservation bylaw needed to be adjusted to allow more flexibility for other historic structures.
- To qualify for the historic preservation bylaw, the property must pass one of two tests: 1) determination by the State Historic Commission that the property is eligible for nomination on the national register of historic places; 2) unanimous vote of the Natick historic commission that the building was of historic or cultural significance.
- There are two provisions of the current By-Law that require modification: 1) the calculation of the number of units allowed in a historic preservation district; 2) how much new construction is permitted.
  - The bylaw currently says that you take the net usable land divided by 3500 sq. ft. to determine the permitted number of units.
    - The Sacred Heart church property came out at 7 units.
    - 50 Pleasant Street is ~1.5 acres of net usable land and 60,000 sq. ft., it comes out to 18 units (which is excessive in our opinion and the sponsors are looking for 10 units).
  - The current bylaw limits new construction in a historic preservation district to 10%.
    - The sponsors want to restore the property to its original condition and would like to restore some of the original architectural features of buildings that were demolished.
    - However, the 10% limit will not allow that work to be completed (10% would be about a 12,000 sq. ft. addition). It would need to go through a special permit process with the Planning Board.
- This proposal is to change that amount to an unspecified percentage, with a cap that would be under the discretion of the Planning Board.

The committee asked questions and heard testimony from the sponsors, including:

- Whether the proposed motion is to apply across the whole town, not this specific property?
  - Sponsor confirmed that it is town-wide.

- It was stated earlier that the sponsors are not opposed to putting numerical limits on the new construction component is that true?
  - The sponsors believe that a numerical limit makes sense because the new construction shouldn't overtake the character of the existing house. There are no definitive plans yet, it's hard to say exactly what the numerical limits should be, but 50% may be a number the proponent can live with a 6,000 sq. ft. addition.
  - The committee member advocated for a "not-to-exceed" number because Town Meeting wouldn't want to give an open book.
- A member expressed concerns about the applicability of the historic preservation bylaw to many properties in town and asked if there might be a table of indexed percentages – for non-conforming lots, minimally conforming lots with excess space, etc. Also, what do other towns do?
  - The sponsor indicated that this idea was discussed, but to come up with a table that worked was a daunting task. Trying to make the bylaw directly applicable to every potential size lot didn't make sense. Having the flexibility to enable the Planning Board to evaluate historic preservation opportunities on a case-by-case basis made more sense. Capping the percentage of new construction was thought to be a way to ensure that the building didn't over-burden the site or the neighborhood. The Planning Board could still protect the neighborhood while being able to encourage historic preservation.

### Debate

- There are a couple of points here that make me want to support this motion: 1) restoration of this building to one of historical significance is admirable in a town where factions are less amenable to restoration of historical buildings. 2) it's noted that, the CED Director, when approached by sponsors, suggested that the sponsor write a change to the historic preservation zoning bylaw to do this, rather than come back to the Planning Board at some point in the future and request a variance. Variances are precedents that can be avoided through changing the town zoning bylaws to reflect the overall needs of the town.
- This idea is great and is very supportive but would advise the proponent to put some sort of limit on it (define it!). When Town Meeting first passed this, the 10% was intentionally restrictive to get one project off the ground. I'd like to encourage as much historic preservation and adaptation as possible.
- The main location of this knowledge sits in the Planning Board and they have not heard this article yet and whether they want a general solution for a specific lot or whether there is a specific solution that doesn't have unintended consequences. I love the idea of historic preservation and the plans they have, but I want to hear what the Planning Board has to say on this topic.
- A member expressed he would like to see a bit more information before he would be totally comfortable with it. He wants to know that the Planning Board supports this.
- Approves the concept but has reservations about this article due to its applicability throughout the town. No sense of where this might be applicable in town, but sense is that there may not be that many properties where this bylaw would apply. I would hope that, if new substantive information becomes available, members would be amenable to reconsideration.

- This bylaw change will encourage the types of projects that we do want in town. I hope that there are more properties like this that can be preserved and hope that there are more people who are re- developing these properties were interested in historic preservation.

-END OF ARTICLE-

**ARTICLE 35**  
**Voting Requires Being Legal Resident of Massachusetts and this Municipality**

**ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see if the Town will vote to:

Amend its charter (section 7-7 sub section (I)) and bylaws, (article 1 town election and town meeting) by inserting the following language: “A person over the age of 18 shall be qualified to vote in municipal elections who is a United States citizen and a legal resident of Massachusetts and this municipality, and who meets the qualification of M.G.L. Ch. 51, section 1

or otherwise act thereon.

.

**PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:**

To make voting in Town of Natick a protected right of US citizens, Naturalized citizens and legal resident of Massachusetts only and record such in Natick’s Home Rule Charter.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE #35	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
	September 20, 2018	No Recommendation	9-0-0

Two motions were moved Indefinite Postponement (Voted 6 –8 – 0) and Favorable Action (Voted 2 – 12 – 0). Neither motion reached the quantum of an eight-vote majority of the fifteen members of the committee.

**MOTION:** (Requires a majority vote)

**No Recommendation**

## FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

The committee asked questions, gathered information and testimony from the sponsor in response to questions including:

- Who is eligible to vote in town as of now?
  - M.G.L. c. 51 §1 doesn't specify that one has to be a citizen of the United States to vote in Massachusetts state and local elections.
- Has the sponsor consulted with the Town Clerk or an attorney on this matter?
  - Sponsor indicated he had not consulted with the Town Clerk but had consulted with attorneys who indicated that this is something that a town could elect to put into its home rule charter.
- What data is available that would support the contention that ineligible voters were voting in Natick?
  - Sponsor noted that he didn't know whether it's a particular problem in Natick, but I'm just trying to do something that most people seem to think is self-evident, that voting is a protected benefit.
- How this would protect a citizen, given that he already is an eligible voter. Is it fair to say you can't point to anything specific now that requires citizens to be protected?
  - Sponsor indicated that the charter doesn't say that you need to be a U.S. or naturalized citizen to vote in Natick.
- Does federal law might supersede state and local law in this matter?
  - Sponsor said he didn't know.
- If you go to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Secretary of State's page, and click on Elections and Voting, and apply for voter registration, the first thing that it states is that you must be a citizen of the United States?
  - Sponsor indicated he disagreed with that position and stated that if you look at M.G.L. c. 51, the last page of the questionnaire "Every citizen eighteen years of age or older, not being a person under guardianship or incarcerated in a correctional facility due to a felony conviction, and not being temporarily or permanently disqualified by law..." It says nothing about U.S. citizenship. There are towns in Massachusetts that are trying to do the opposite – by providing these voting rights to non-citizens.
- Member ask if this article is to correct an issue or preclude the possibility of a determinant body in Natick from extending voting rights in local elections to residents who aren't necessarily citizens?
  - Sponsor indicated that this is a fair categorization.
- It's been stated by the sponsor there would be no enforcement mechanism. True?
  - Sponsor acknowledged the proposed motion does not go as far as an enforcement mechanism and that might be something that could be taken on in the future.

### Public Comments



In addition to support for this article, I've worked at the election polls and some of the biggest proponents of something like this are new citizens who have gone through the process of becoming a citizen and are very excited to be able to vote. To let non-citizens vote, takes away from that (excite to vote) and it is something that other towns are going toward. We welcome non-citizens, but we want them to go the extra route to become citizens and enjoy the same privilege.

### Debate

- If you look at the Secretary of State's web site and try to register on-line, the first question it asks is whether you're a U.S. citizen. If you answer no, you cannot register to vote. With all due respect, I feel that this is an unnecessary measure from a legal standpoint. If someone wants to make this a resolution at Town Meeting floor, so be it.
- As far as M.G.L. c. 56, § 8, which states that a person who knowingly falsely represents themselves as eligible to vote shall be punished by a fine of not more than ten thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than five years, or both. This is a requested charter change. After it gets through here, it goes to Town Meeting, then it goes to the votes as a referendum. I don't believe this is necessary or a good idea,
- The purpose of this article is to preclude Natick from adopting actions which other townships in Massachusetts and elsewhere are adopting. It has to do with citizenship vs. non-citizenship, a distinction of every sovereign country. I think that this is a reasonable idea and how valuable citizenship is.
- Concerned about cities and towns that are allowing residents who aren't U.S. citizens to vote, so want to make it clear what being a voter in Natick means.
- Member doubts that the AG would approve anything that's restrictive on people's civil rights. The right to vote is a guaranteed Constitutional right. To me, this is a poor solution in search of a non-existent problem.
- Understand that the proposal is a preemptive measure. However, it's questionable whether it's needed at this time. Given that this would have to go to the voters for approval, and should it not be approved, you could be starting a movement in the opposite direction.
- Listened carefully and heard you say that the size of the problem is not known and the enforcement mechanism is not identified. My problem is the same as I've seen in other charter or bylaw changes— that of how to handle enforcement of any regulations and the scope of the problem. If you come back to me and show me there's a problem, and how you would put this in place and enforce it, and understand the burden to town staff to implement it, then I'd be more inclined to determine whether it made sense to me or not.

-END OF ARTICLE-

## **ARTICLE 41**

### **Snow Removal ByLaw**

#### **ARTICLE LANGUAGE:**

To see what action(s) the Town will take to help ensure public safety, access and convenience by amending Article 50 Section 18 and/or Article 92 of the Town ByLaws:

- 1) to clarify and/or to define, whether in whole or in part, what the term “public way(s)” shall mean for the purposes of Article 50 Section 18 or other purposes in the Bylaws, potentially including, without limitation, that the term “public way(s)” shall include streets to which the public has right of access; and/or
- 2) to change any fine in Section 18 to a different number or a schedule of fines for first and any enumerated or further list of offenses, and/or to add such fines or schedule to Article 92 of the ByLaws and provide a cross reference from Article 50 Section 18 to Article 92, and/or to delete or to modify subsection “a” in whole or in part and/or to add or to rearrange subsections within Article 18 to establish fines; and/or
- 3) to delete or to modify existing subsection “b” of Article 50 Section 18 and/or add new text in Article 50 Section 18; and/or
- 4) to insert a provision in subsection “b” or in a new subsection that no persons except employees and contractors of the Town in the lawful or authorized performance of Town snow removal duties, shall either move snow into and leave such snow within, or deposit and leave snow in any improved portion of i) any public sidewalk, ii) street or iii) public way or any part(s) thereof, so as to obstruct or impede regular snow removal operations of the Town; and/or
- 5) to provide that such prohibition above shall not prevent and shall not apply to the clearing, by persons other than Town employees or town contractors, of snow from either public ways, or improved sidewalk or street portions of public ways, where snow is or has been left un-cleared by Town snow removal operations; provided that A) such snow clearing does not leave snow in sidewalks or streets areas already cleared by the Town, B) is incidental to or necessary for clearing access to private driveways, private sidewalks, private buildings or mailboxes and/or C) does not prevent or impede regular snow removal operations conducted by the Town to any greater extent than those regular Town snow removal operations would or should have done; and/or
- 6) to clarify or to define that “regular snow removal operations” refers to or means those snow removal operations, both which and in the manner they are regularly or routinely conducted by the Town in a timely manner practicable after a snowstorm; and/or
- 7) to make any other changes to the text of the Bylaws consistent with accomplishing the general purposes of this article, which purposes include, without limitation, the goals of ensuring public safety, access and convenience; allowing the Town to clear snow efficiently and effectively from improved sidewalks, streets or other portions of public ways; and of allowing residents and private property owners the ability to clear access to their properties;

or otherwise act thereon.

#### PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE:

To establish a workable snow removal by law pertaining to private snow clearing efforts putting snow in areas of the public way that are cleared by the Town and used by the public.

- This article does NOT include any requirement for private persons to have any responsibility for clearing sidewalks in front of their residence or business.

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Finance Committee recommends the following action:

ARTICLE	DATE VOTED	MOTION	QUANTUM OF VOTE
#41	September 6, 2018	No Recommendation	--

A motion for Favorable Action was made but failed to receive the necessary eight (8) vote majority of the fifteen-member committee.

MOTION: (Requires a majority vote)

#### **No Recommendation**

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION & DISCUSSION:

The sponsor stated that this is the fourth time that the subject matter of this Article has been before Town Meeting.

- A couple years ago, a more comprehensive bylaw was proposed and rejected because people felt that the bylaw went too far and had unintended consequences in some cases.
- Last Spring, the Article would have prohibited anyone from depositing snow in a public way at any time. However, a referral motion carried at Town Meeting due to the ambiguity of the definition of “public way”.
  - “Public way” includes the improved area of the public way, not only the street but the sidewalk also.

- The public way can be set back as much as 5 to 10 feet from the curb. This would have prohibited someone from clearing their driveway or sidewalk onto their front lawn.

Ninety-five communities in Massachusetts have snow and ice removal bylaws that relate to sidewalks. This proposal has a straightforward goal – to make it safer for citizens to walk on sidewalks during winter months by prohibiting people from putting excessive amounts of snow on top of sidewalks after the snow had been removed by normal snow clearing operations.

Under Police Regulations in the town bylaws, it states that no one other than someone operating equipment in conjunction with town duties can obstruct the public way.

- In this case, no one other than town employees and contractors for snow removal are permitted to deposit snow in the public way as part of their snow removal activities.
- This bylaw exempts DPW and contractors from this bylaw.
- It does apply to any private person depositing snow on a public way, including streets and sidewalks.
- The ByLaw provides the ability for private citizens or contractors not hired by the town to plow their property as long as they do not make the cleared sidewalk worse (i.e., after the sidewalk has been plowed).
  - For example, the downtown businesses need to be able to remove snow from their sidewalks and have no place to put it other than at the edge of the curb (in the public way).

Questions from members included:

- Who is responsible for administering the fine schedule?
  - This is handled in varying ways in different communities. Right now, in this bylaw there are no identified mechanisms for enforcement of this bylaw.
  - The Board of Selectman left it up to the sponsors to determine who would enforce this bylaw, most likely it would be the DPW or Police department.
- Why would his bylaw not take effect until November 2018 rather than November 2019?
  - The results of Fall Town Meeting would be unlikely to be ratified by the AG's office, since the AG's office has 90 days following the closure to certify that this bylaw is legal, plus 7 days for any town appeal.
- Does the prohibition of dumping snow on a public way apply to private contractors hired to clear a parking lot of an apartment building where the town doesn't plow the sidewalks and they are pushing snow pile onto the sidewalk?
  - The intention of this bylaw is to start at a more basic level where the bylaw requests that private parties don't dump snow on public ways already cleared by the town.
- It was noted that some contractors may plow early during a snowstorm then return later in the day after the town has plowed the public way, including sidewalks, and plow again to clear remaining snow. Some contractors pile snow so high as to interfere with visibility of other traffic coming from one road to another road. Who would be responsible for removal of this barrier?
  - The sponsor stated that it is the private owner of that property who is responsible, and the property owner must get the contractor to change the behavior.

- It was asked whether or not the Police were the only enforcement entity, or can multiple entities enforce this bylaw?
  - Sponsor noted in this ByLaw the Police were not the only enforcement entity for Natick and the enforcement authority varies from town to town.

#### Email from Police Chief

Email message from Chief Hicks to the Finance Committee Chair, read into the public record during the public hearing on Article 41, as follows:

“ On **Tue, Aug 7, 2018** at 9:43 AM, Joshua Ostroff <joshua@ostroff.net> wrote:

Chief and Lt,

As you may recall, last year Town Meeting referred Article 27 to the BOS. This would have amended Article 50, Section 18 to provide more clarity and better enforcement on sidewalk snow issues. They are not going forward with it, so I am preparing to submit a citizen’s petition before August 16 at 5pm. Before I do, I appreciate any comments on the attached. I also will ask for a representative of the NPD to attend the FinCom hearing on this in September (no idea when it will be scheduled yet). If it’s appropriate for the Safety Committee to weigh in, that’s fine too.

Thanks, Josh

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

message From:

**James Hicks** [hicks@natickpolice.com](mailto:hicks@natickpolice.com) Date: **Wed, Aug 8, 2018** at 1:34 PM

Subject: Re: Sidewalk snow bylaw, revisited

To: Joshua Ostroff <joshua@ostroff.net>

Cc: Brian Lauzon <Lauzon@natickpolice.com>

Josh,

This would be hard for me to support simply because we would not have the resources to enforce it. I have difficulty making laws that we know we will not enforce on a regular basis. The only time we could do this is if someone calls. Then it becomes selective enforcement and puts the officers in a difficult position. We can talk more.

**Fwd: Sidewalk snow bylaw, revisited**

**James Hicks** <hicks@natickpolice.com> **Wed, Sep 5, 2018** at 9:09 PM

To: Patrick Hayes <phayes.fincom@natickma.org>

Cc: Melissa Malone <mmalone@natickma.org>

Good evening Patrick,

I had a discussion with Town Administrator and she asked me to pass along a statement on the proposed Snow Removal Bylaw Amendment.as I will be in the BoS meeting tomorrow night. I decided to pass along a response I originally sent to one of the sponsors and my statement remains the same. I have a concern about creating laws for the sake of creating laws especially if it presents an unrealistic expectation that it will be enforced. In addition, I'm still not clear if this is a true public safety issue. Please let me know if you need any additional information.”

Debate:

- While this motion is not perfect, it is a really good first step and achieves the primary objective of increasing public safety by reducing the likelihood of people, particularly small children walking in the streets to avoid snow banks blocking the sidewalk.
- Supports the objectives of this Article but is troubled that we don't have support from the Police Chief on enforcement. Hoping that the sponsors will talk with the Town Administrator and get greater clarity on how this bylaw might be enforced before Town Meeting.
- Agreed that we have a safety problem and stated that he consistently sees this problem each winter, especially around the schools. Further, it was pointed out that community education is really important to raise awareness.
- Member expressed disappointment that this was referred to the Board of Selectman by Town Meeting and the board took no action in response to that referral. They are not taking responsible action. I have no patience if the Board of Selectman as an issue with this because they had the opportunity to act and chose not to do so. I'm unable to challenge the Police Chief's assertion that he doesn't have the bandwidth to enforce this bylaw. If a noise violation was reported, other things being equal, a police officer would respond to that call and investigate.
- Member is unable to support this bylaw due to the ambiguity regarding enforcement of this bylaw. Concerned that the statement provided by the Polic Chief, as requested by the Town Administrator. This leads me to question where the Town Administrator is on this

bylaw. I'm also curious whether the silence from the Board of Selectman is abdication or something else, and I cannot support this bylaw until this is resolved.

- Member commented that during a snow emergency, Police Chief may feel that the police department has more pressing issues than enforcement of this bylaw. Member further expressed concern that the Board of Selectmen has not weighed in on this bylaw and cannot support this bylaw at this point.
- Member commented that this effort began a few years ago and was opposed to it then. Considerable progress has been made since that point and can support it now. My reading of the Police Chief comments is that he is most concerned about the ability to enforce this bylaw.
- Recommend that the sponsors take the opportunity to do increase the clarity of the enforcement of this bylaw. I agree that the Police Chief is concerned about enforcement and think that we are setting a standard for snow removal via this bylaw and need to communicate this standard.
- Member supports this bylaw tonight with reservations about enforcement, how we communicate about exempt roads- because there is nothing in the bylaw that specifies how that is to be done. Suggests that there may be an opportunity in a few places to add clarity prior to Town Meeting, but will support it tonight, because he views it more positively than negatively.

-END OF ARTICLE-

## APPENDIX



# Financial Management Principles

---

## PART 1: GENERAL

To protect the town's financial stability, to ensure the availability of adequate financial resources in times of emergency, to capitalize on high bond ratings (and thus low interest rates), it is essential that policies regarding the town's financial management be adopted and adhered to in the preparation and implementation of the town's operating and capital budgets. These policies shall be reviewed no less than annually and may be, but are not required to be, revised as a result.

## PART 2: PRINCIPLES

### Reserves: Use and Recommended Balances

- The Town shall appropriate reserve funds in accordance with M.G.L. C40 Section 6 for extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures. The reserve amount may not exceed three per cent of the tax levy for the fiscal year. No direct drafts against this fund shall be made, but transfers from the fund may from time-to-time be voted by the Finance Committee and the Town Comptroller shall make such transfers accordingly. The Board of Selectmen, in the case of the Water/Sewer Enterprise Fund vote transfers from the water/sewer reserve fund and the Town Comptroller makes such transfers accordingly.
- Reserves and one-time revenues should be used only for capital or other non-recurring expenses, except as noted below.
- The Town will strive to maintain unappropriated free cash at a minimum of 1% of revenues, and unappropriated free cash should never be less than ½ % of revenues.
- Encumbrances shall be reviewed annually and released as deemed appropriate by the Town Administration.

### Stabilization Funds:

- The Town will maintain a diversified series of permanent reserves in the form of stabilization funds. These stabilization funds will consist of six types:
  1. A General Stabilization Fund should be maintained for the purpose of unforeseen and catastrophic emergencies. It should, at a minimum, be at a level equal to 2% of revenues, with the target being 5% of revenues. This fund was adopted in accordance with M.G.L. C40, Section 5B at the Annual Town Meeting in 1961.
  2. An Operational Stabilization Fund should be maintained for the purpose of augmenting operations in case of sustained economic downturn and associated loss of revenues in support of operations. Sustained economic downturn will be any situation whereby

State Aid and/or local receipts are significantly reduced from one-year to the next. ("Significantly" being defined as more than 5% of the total for the respective revenue category.) The target amount of money in the Operational Stabilization Fund should be sufficient to sustain operations through a three-year period of economic downturn. This shall be equivalent to 10% of State Aid Revenues and 5% of Estimated Receipts cumulative for a three-year period. This fund was adopted in accordance with M.G.L. C40, Section 5B at the 2011 Spring Annual Town Meeting.

3. A Capital Stabilization Fund should be maintained for the purpose of funding any capital related project, or pieces of capital equipment, or debt-service payment related thereto. It shall be funded primarily through local option taxes though other funding sources as may be available from time to time are not precluded. This fund was adopted in accordance with M.G.L. C40, Section 5B at the 2010 Fall Annual Town Meeting.
  4. An Inflow & Infiltration Stabilization Fund should be maintained for the purpose of funding repairs to and replacement of sewer lines to reduce inflow and infiltration into the Town's sewer system. It can also be used to pay debt service related to this purpose. Sewer connection fees will be the primary source of funding although other funding sources as may be available from time to time are not precluded. This fund was adopted in accordance with M.G.L. C40, Section 5B at the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting.
  5. A One-to-One Technology Stabilization Fund should be maintained for the purpose of funding the one-to-one technology program for Natick High School Students. This fund was adopted in accordance with M.G.L. C40, Section 5B at the 2014 Spring Annual Town Meeting.
  6. A FAR Bonus Stabilization Fund should be maintained for the purpose of the creation of additional open space and public parks. More specifically, FAR Bonus monies are to be used for "Open Space Public Benefit Amenities" which are defined as either parks or excess pervious landscaping available for the active or passive recreation, or leisure use, by the public. This fund was adopted in accordance with M. G.L. C40, Section 5B at the 2015 Fall Annual Town Meeting.
- Stabilization Funds should be enhanced whenever possible in order to meet and/or maintain the desired target levels.

### **Capital Planning and Budgeting**

- A 5-Year capital plan should be developed and updated annually, per Section 5-7 of the Town's Charter.
- Funding for capital projects shall be timed to maximize efficiency, cost-effectiveness and return on investment
- A minimum of 6-7% of net general fund revenues (i.e. within-levy) should be set aside annually to fund capital needs, inclusive of cash appropriations and the subject year's debt budget. Not included in this target are those capital improvements and equipment purchases funded through Debt Exclusions, Enterprise Funds, Intergovernmental Funds, Grants, Mitigation Funds, Chapter 90 Funds, etc. This goal should be revisited regularly to ensure that the Town is investing adequately in its capital needs.
- All capital needs of all Town Departments, including the School Department shall be included within the capital plan.

- Credit rating agency guidelines recommend that a town maintain a general fund debt service payment burden ratio, as a percentage of available revenue or expenditures, between 8% and 12%. The Town shall strive to maintain its burden ratio below 10%. Affordability analysis as determined by this measure will be undertaken prior to General Fund debt being authorized by Town Meeting.

### **Debt Issuance and Management**

- Capital projects should be carefully scheduled and monitored to minimize borrowing costs while optimizing investment opportunities.
- Large capital projects, generally costing over \$1 million and having a useful life of ten years or more, are typically funded with debt to spread the cost out over many years.
- The Town will strive to issue debt on a level principal payment basis in order to reduce the total amount of interest that is paid on the issuance.
- Refinancing existing debt to reduce interest rates and costs will be reviewed annually.
- Projects with balances remaining after project completion shall be reviewed annually and excess balances shall be closed to free cash or appropriated for other projects of similar nature.
- Authorized unissued debt remaining after a capital project has been completed shall be presented to Town Meeting for rescission.

### **Financial Planning and Forecasting**

- Revenue estimates should be realistic, yet conservative, to minimize the potential of shortfalls in the subsequent year's operating budgets and corresponding impacts on free cash.
- Three year revenue and expenditure forecasts should be reviewed and updated no less than annually.

### **Cash/Investments Management**

- Fees and charges will be reviewed regularly to ensure that – where appropriate – they cover direct and indirect costs associated with the related service and/or that they fulfill a policy objective or other purpose of the Town.
- The Town's Investment Policy shall be reviewed annually by Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator.
- The Treasurer shall report the cash and investments balances of the Town, as of June 30 each year, to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator and provide a report of the safety, liquidity, investment earnings and the amount of insurance/collateralization for all funds.

### **Retirement System Funding**

- The Town will use an actuarially accepted method of funding its pension system to achieve a fully-funded position. The Town's contribution to employee retirement costs will be adjusted annually as necessary to maintain the funding schedule. If the Town reaches its actuarial-required contribution (defined as Town and employee contributions that when expressed as a

percent of annual covered payroll are sufficient to accumulate assets to pay benefits when due), the Town may reduce its contribution provided that the amount reduced from the annual actuarial requirement will only be used to fund other unfunded liabilities (i.e. OPEB liability), for one-time, non-recurring expenses, and/or to enhance the Town's Stabilization Funds in order to provide the ability to increase contributions as may be required by future market conditions.

#### **Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Funding**

- The Town will develop an actuarially accepted method of funding its Other Post-Employment Benefits to achieve a fully-funded position. The Town will strive to get its contributions to the level required by such a plan. The Town's contribution to Other Post-Employment Benefit costs will be funded into the OPEB Trust Fund established for this purpose using one-time funds (free cash) or annual appropriation in the future. **After funding the Capital Stabilization Fund at the Fall Annual Town Meeting with free cash, in the amount of the local options taxes collected during the previous fiscal year, the Town should appropriate at least 10% of the remaining free cash to the OPEB Trust Fund at the Fall Annual Town Meeting prior to appropriating any other amounts from free cash for any other purpose.** If the Town reaches its actuarial-required contribution (defined as Town and employee contributions that when expressed as a percent of annual covered payroll are sufficient to accumulate assets to pay benefits when due), the Town may reduce its contribution provided that the amount reduced from the annual actuarial requirement will only be used to fund other unfunded liabilities, for one-time, non-recurring expenses, and/or to enhance the Town's Stabilization Funds in order to provide the ability to increase contributions as may be required by future market conditions.

*Adopted by the Board of Selectmen, March 2011*

*Revised by Board of Selectmen, February 6, 2012*

*Revised by Board of Selectmen, March 10, 2014*

*Revised by Board of Selectmen, November 23, 2015*

*Revised by Board of Selectmen, \_\_\_\_\_ 2016*



LAST PAGE OF BOOK